Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal for a Social Security buy-back for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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John Edwards' campaign finance fraud case ends in a mistrial. ➤ PAGE 14

WORLD

The U.S. is heaping new pressure on Russia to change course on Syria. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

"Push Girls" takes viewers into the lives of four beautiful wheelchair-bound women. ➤ PAGE 21

Fund's Chapter 11 case dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI's Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris yesterday upheld his tentative ruling dismissing the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

» Judge says govt treatment of Fund, beneficiaries 'shameful'

In a videoconference that lasted over an hour, Faris granted the motions to dismiss filed by the U.S. Trustee's and several other parties, reiterating his opinion in his tentative ruling that the Fund is a "governmental unit" and not eligible for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

He also ruled that the Fund, which

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'Block Fund from appealing, place it under an emergency'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration, lawmakers, and retirees strongly oppose "spending hundreds of thousands of dollars more" on legal fees just to appeal the U.S. District Court's ruling yesterday dismissing the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, even as the administration prepares a state of emergency declaration for the Fund.

Some lawmakers believe that without such an immediate emergency declaration, the Fund will pursue an appeal and spend more on attorneys' fees rather than work with the Executive Branch and the Legislature to prolong the pension agency's lifespan.

"We're going to be wasting more money than what we're already wast-

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GOODBYE, TREE
This famous tree stump along the road leading to and from Capital Hill, which for six years has been "dressed" to fit the season—whether it's graduation, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Halloween, or Valentine's Day—is about to retire as the writing on this white cross states. The surrounding area underwent land clearing months ago for a multimillion real estate development that has yet to get off the ground.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Power Plant 4 goes offline

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The only power plant on Saipan operated by a private company is currently offline, according to Charles Warren, chief financial officer of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Warren confirmed yesterday that Power Plant 4, operated by Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., has been offline for a week but remains on standby. That means it is not supplying any power to the Saipan grid.

» CUC says contract buyout 'an option'

Saipan Tribune files show that Power Plant 4, located along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico, is designed to generate 14.50 megawatts.

With the Power Plant 4 offline, the island's power needs are being supplied solely by Power Plant 1, which is operated by CUC.

Power Plant 1, situated in Lower Base, is expected to produce 71.70MW through its eight engines.

Warren noted that CUC's decision to

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MAG-12 Marines fix roads, help Tinian economy. PAGE 5
Decision to shut down PH consulate on Saipan upheld. PAGE 10

Local

Speaker: Another session to reconsider vote on HB 17-226

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said yesterday that he will call for a House session to entertain a motion to reconsider Thursday's vote to override the governor's veto of House Bill 17-226, saying he will not stop until they have exhausted all options to allow non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions.

Cabrera, author of HB 17-226, said he hopes they will be able to get at least 14 votes to successfully override the veto.

On Thursday, the "yes" votes totaled only 11, and six voted "no," while three were absent.

"I hope we can count on those who were not present the last time, and some of those who voted 'no.' I hope they reconsider their votes," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune.*

Those absent during Thursday's session were Reps. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Santos, according to Cabrera, supports an override, while Maratita is not expected to return on island until sometime end of June. Yumul, he said, voted against the compromise version of HB 17-226 and the speaker said there's no telling what his vote will be this time.

The speaker said there might be others who could change his vote on the override from "no" to "yes."

HB 17-226 allows active members of the Fund's defined benefit plan to take back up to 50 percent of their employee contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their job. The rest of their employee contributions will be rolled over to a defined contribution plan.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), one of the six who voted "no" to the override, separately said yesterday that he welcomes another session wherein a motion to reconsider could be brought up.

"The House rules allow for that. But that can be debated," Dela Cruz said in an interview at his office.

Dela Cruz said he thinks an override of the governor's veto will still not succeed the second time around. "It needs 14 votes. I don't think the outcome will be different," he added.

House Rules 10 Section 6, "Motion to Reconsider," reads: "When a main motion has been made once and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the House to move to reconsider it on the same or succeeding day of the session during the appropriate order of business. The motion to reconsider is debatable. A simple majority shall be required for passage. When a motion for reconsideration has been defeated, a second motion for reconsideration of the same question shall not be in order."

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, meanwhile, described as an "exercise in futility" the House's decision on Thursday to go on with the override without ensuring there's enough votes for it.

"Why grandstand?" he asked, adding that dozens of government employees had to show up at the House session, during government hours and on government resources, only to witness the override's defeat.

Inos repeated his call for the Legislature to work with the administration on a "better plan." He said active members will be able to get up to 100 percent of their contributions if the buyback into the Social Security system does not push through, but for now, he said, he calls on lawmakers to rally behind the Social Security plan. Inos said it is the government's responsibility to look after the welfare of its people, and make sure there's a safety net for them when they retire.

Some 100 employees that filled the House lobby and chamber on Capital Hill on Thursday afternoon expressed disappointment over the defeat of the override.

PEACE MEMORIAL CLARISSA V. DAVID
Members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association offer prayers and incense by the makeshift altar at the foot of the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Marpi on Wednesday.

'Water dogs' try to find alternative water source on Tinian

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, utilities, water purification technicians conducted a reconnaissance patrol May 29 to pinpoint the location of a watering hole sight spotted by aerial surveillance during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012.

The "water dogs" were conducting the patrol in search of an alternative means of providing water for the Marines participating in the exercise.

"Today utilities platoon conducted a tactical water reconnaissance patrol," said Staff Sgt. Gorge L. Made Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, utilities, water purification technician. "Our goal was to locate and determine whether or not the water source would be suitable to provide water for the Marines here on Tinian."

Preparation for the patrol began well before sunrise at 4:30am. The squad leaders briefed their squad members on the events taking place throughout the patrol and conducted a final gear check before leaving the forward operating base located on Tinians' North Field.

"I had absolute faith in the performance of my squad leaders throughout the patrol," said Made.

As the patrol made its way closer and closer to the water source, the terrain became more and more treacherous.

"As we moved closer to the water source we found that the area was overgrown with tall, bladed grass and bamboo that was more than 10 feet high," said Lance Cpl. Thaddius L. Buggs III, MAG-12, MWSS-171, utilities, water purification technician. "As we were cutting our way through the overgrowth it seemed as though we were moving so far, but when we turned around we realized that we hadn't gone that far and that it was going to take a lot longer than expected to reach our goal."

U.S. Marines walk in formation during a foot patrol exercise on Tinian Island's North Field during Exercise Gieger Fury 2012.

The Marines made their way through the thicket after hours of hacking and slashing their way to the water source and found that the water was not suitable for purification. What appeared to have been a pond or spring was in fact more of a swamp that collected excess rainfall and could likely flood the area in its immediate vicinity during Tinian's rainy season that normally starts around this time of year.

"Though the water was not suitable nor was there a sufficient amount for sustainment, we completed the mission," said Made. "These Marines gave it their all and that's all I ever ask of them. I am very happy with their performance throughout the entirety of the exercise thus far."

Though the new water source was determined to no longer be an alternative water supply for the Marines on Tinian, the Water Dogs are back to work with their purification systems already set into place on Chulu Beach, the historic location where the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions landed on 24 July 1944, supported by naval bombardment and artillery firing across the strait from Saipan during World War II. They will continue to provide all the potable water for Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 until they depart Tinian and return to Iwakuni, Japan.

Ex-House bet gets 30-month sentence for sex abuse

Juan R. Babauta, a former candidate for a House of Representatives seat, was slapped with a 30-month prison term for sexually abusing a minor girl.

The 53-year-old Babauta pleaded guilty on Thursday to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos sentenced Babauta to five years in prison, all suspended except for 30 months, without the possibility of parole, with credit for the 138 days he has already served in jail.

Upon completing his sentence, Babauta will be placed on probation for three years. He was also required to pay a $500 fine, $100 in court assessment fee, and probation service fee.

Inos ordered the defendant to undergo assessment at the Community Guidance Center and complete any recommended course of counseling.

According to the plea agreement, Babauta had sexual contact with a 12-year-old girl on Jan. 26, 2012, on Saipan. Police arrested him in January at his residence in As Matuis.

Detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that preliminary investigation showed that Babauta picked up the 12-year-old girl from a residence on Jan. 6, 2012, at 6pm, and brought her to a house in As Matuis, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her.

Saipan Tribune learned that Babauta was the CNMI Republican Party's candidate for Precinct 4 in the 2009 election. He lost. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

UMDA, former officer ask court to dismiss suit

The United Micronesia Development Association Inc. and its former chief financial officer, Hiroyuki Saito, who is suing UMDA, asked the federal court yesterday to dismiss the lawsuit.

Saito and UMDA, through their respective counsels, Mark A. Scoggins and Robert T. Torres, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI shall be provided with a copy of their confidential settlement agreement and release so that the court may review the settlement and its terms.

Scoggins and Torres said the court may also, in its discretion, file a copy of the settlement agreement and release under seal.

The lawyers asked the court to retain jurisdiction over the case to enforce the settlement.

Early last month, U.S. Magistrate Judge of the District of Guam Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. said a settlement between UMDA and Saito had been reached.

Manibusan said that UMDA and Saito, along with their representatives and counsel, met with him for a settlement conference on April 27, 2012. The judge did not indicate the terms of the settlement.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona appointed Manibusan to serve as a mediator/settlement judge in Saito's lawsuit against UMDA.

Manglona issued the order after Saito and UMDA, through their counsels, agreed to hold a conference to settle their dispute.

Saito sued UMDA to compel the company to arbitrate their disputes. He alleged that UMDA terminated his employment effective immediately and without cause on Dec. 7, 2009. Saito claimed that UMDA's total outstanding liability to him under the terms of a renewed contract is at least $975,000.

In February 2011, the federal court granted UMDA's motion to dismiss Saito's lawsuit. The court then agreed with UMDA's position that Saito does not adequately allege a breach of contract because he does not adequately allege the existence of any contract to be breached.

Saito later filed an amended complaint. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House OKs extension of 90-day hiring period

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 16-1, the House of Representatives adopted Thursday a compromise bill that will extend by 45 days the period by which a vacant position in government can be eliminated if not filled within 90 days.

House Bill 17-261, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1 now goes to the Senate, which can only adopt or reject it, and can no longer make amendments to it because it is a conference committee report.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) was the only one of 17 House members present who voted "no" to the bill, saying that a 90-day period is enough time to fill critical vacancies. He said in some cases, the 90-day period expires without filling a critical vacant post because of the amount of time it takes to route the documents from one agency to the next.

In an interview yesterday, Villagomez said the current budget law already allows the filling in of critical vacant positions through a joint resolution.

Under the current law, any vacancy not filled within 90 days is eliminated, except at the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Public Safety.

The compromise bill, if signed into law, gives agencies a total of 135 days to fill vacancies, or those vacant positions will be eliminated.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) introduced HB 17-261 on Jan. 17, to amend Public Law 17-55 or the fiscal year 2012 budget law. When the bill cleared the House, the Senate made changes to it that the House rejected, resulting in the formation of a conference committee.

The Senate amendment was to provide for $5 million in Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. seed funds, which would be the state share of the required matching funds for Medicaid reimbursements to CHC. But the conferees agreed that the Senate amendment is already addressed in another bill, HB 17-293. Thus, HB 17-261 is back to its original version.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) rescheduled the Senate session for Wednesday, and it is expected that the compromise bill will be approved and sent to the governor. The Fitial administration has been waiting for this bill.

HEALTHY LUNCHES CLARISSA V. DAVID
Members of the CNMI State Board of Education convene for a special meeting at the BOE Conference Room on Thursday. Students of the Public School System will see healthier lunch meals next school year following the board's adoption of a new lunch menu that is based on the nutritional requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for "nutrition-balanced, culturally acceptable meals."

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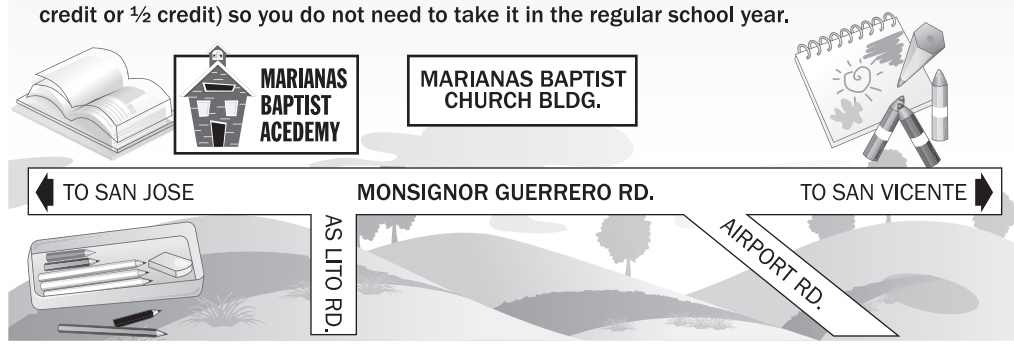

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20 Framingham graduates get their master's degrees

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of Framingham State University Cohort 9 officially earned their master's degree in education during commencement exercises held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on May 27.

Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, president of the Northern Marianas College, which has a partnership agreement with the first public university founded for the education of teachers, conferred the degree on the 20 graduates.

Cohort 9 graduates are Svetlana Atalig, Jeremiah Lacapa Benavente, Raena Sablan Bermudes, Francine Borja Camacho, Kimberly Concepcion, Patricia Jane C. Deleon Guerrero, Annamarie Schoen Guerrero, William D. Harwood, Megan Nevitt Loken, Peter Benjamin Loken, Aaron Mar, Melissa D. Mendez, Paul Miura, Joseph John Shirai Muna, Raymond Mafnas Muna, Valerie Yvette Mendiola Nada, Asapmar Sven Bennett Ogumoro, Niyanina P. Reyes-Ross, Bernadet Padua Torres, and Courtney Zietzke.

Last Sunday's ceremony was witnessed by family members, friends, and other guests who congratulated the graduates for an important milestone in their lives. Also attending the event were Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan and NMC's Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Hart, in her remarks, acknowledged the graduates and wished them "the very best" in their future endeavors.

"As graduates of the most senior university in the entire United States that has focused on teacher education, do all you can to continue this university's educational excellence. Exhibit it in all that you do as fellow educators," Hart said.

The event also featured the Saipan Southern High School Battalion Color Guard for the presentation of colors, Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr. for the invocation, William D. Harwood as class singer, and Fred Camacho as emcee.

With its home campus in Massachusetts, Framingham State University is a "comprehensive liberal arts institution offering 25 undergraduate degree programs in arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and professional fields as well as graduate degrees in 23 fields, including an extensive graduate program for teachers.

Framingham State University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a non-governmental and nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The 20 graduates of Framingham State University during their commencement exercises held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on May 27.

POWER

From Page 1

take Power Plant 4 offline "was purely a financial decision."

He described the engines at Power Plant 1 as "more efficient" than those of Power Plant 4 since they burn less fuel to produce the same amount of power.

"With our current loads, [Power Plant 1] now has the capacity to handle the demand for the entire island," Warren said via email.

When asked if CUC has any plans to buy out PMIC's contract given the former's enhanced capability to provide power to the island, Warren replied, "That is certainly an option."

Saipan Tribune learned that PMIC's existing contract expires in 2016.

CUC asked MPLT on March 27 to invest in the utilities agency by acting as a guarantor for a $7.5-million loan at a rate of 2 percent. MPLT, however, rejected the loan guarantor request, which was supposed to be utilized to fund improvements at Power Plant 4.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently placed CUC under a state of emergency and accepted executive director Abe Malae's resignation last week.

When asked for comment, press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration does not anticipate any "adverse" impact by the switch from Power Plant 4 to Power Plant 1.

"In fact, it would prove more efficient given that [Power Plant 1] is a much more reliable source," he added.

FUND

From Page 1

is a part and an instrumentality of the CNMI government, does not qualify as a municipality.

The dismissal of the case, however, does not call for a celebration, Faris said, describing the Fund's state as a disaster.

"The way the Fund is being treated [by the government] is shameful! The way the beneficiaries are being treated is shameful!" he said.

After Faris gave his decision, attorney Jeremy B. Coffey, one of the Fund's lawyers, asked the court to delay or stay the order, saying they need to discuss the ruling with the Fund.

Faris told Coffey to instead file a motion as the automatic stay remains while he has yet to issue a written order.

Faris granted the Fund's request for an order authorizing the retention of the law office of Braddock J. Huesman and the law office of Brown Rodnick LLP as counsels for the Fund.

Coffey argued for nearly an hour in trying to convince Faris not to dismiss the case. He explained, among other things, why the Fund should not be considered a "governmental unit" within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Code. He cited the Fund's lack of traditional government powers and it being not performing "traditional governmental functions."

Coffey also cited why the Fund decided to file the Chapter 11 case after a six-year court battle with the CNMI government. "It is obvious that they are not going to pay its obligations," he said.

Coffey said they believe that the Official Creditors' Committee is starting to realize the need for this Chapter 11 petition.

In sum, Coffey said the Fund is not controlled by the government and that the only way to keep it alive and functioning is allow it to proceed with its Chapter 11 petition.

After Coffey's arguments, Faris asked anybody to speak up from the side who wants to keep the bankruptcy case going.

Only Ruth Tighe, a columnist and a retiree, stood up and expressed her support for the Fund's bankruptcy petition.

Tighe said that Chapter 11 bankruptcy rules—and the unique tools they provide—may not be the perfect solution to the Fund's dilemma, but they are the only ones she knows that will keep the Fund alive and functioning in a manner conducive to its rehabilitation.

"For the sake of the common good, may I urge that you reconsider your 'tentative ruling' and allow the CNMI Retirement Fund's bankruptcy petition to proceed," Tighe said.

She noted that the outcome of this case will affect not only the individual members of the Fund—active and retired—but also the local economy of which they are a part.

"Moreover, this case will also have repercussions for the millions of individual creditors, beneficiaries and the like in the U.S. mainland, whose pension plans are also facing financial disaster," Tighe said.

She also mentioned five distinct benefits that, according to her, are distinct and "are not available elsewhere within the repertoire of existing law."

In an interview after the hearing, attorney Braddock J. Huesman, one of the Fund counsels, said they are disappointed with the judge's ruling.

"It's unfortunate. It's what he rules so we go from there," Huesman said.

When asked if the Fund is going to appeal, Huesman replied that they are not going to talk about it right now. Until the judge issues the dismissal order, the stay of the order is in place, he added.

Attorney Ramon Quichocho, counsel for retiree Joaquin Atalig and another retiree, said that Faris' decision is good for the retirees.

"We agree with Judge Faris that it's not a victory for anyone because both sides pretty much suffered through this ordeal. But we're glad it's over," Quichocho said.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff, counsel for two unnamed retirees, agreed with Faris' decision, saying the law is clear from their point of view.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said the dismissal was appropriate.

Torres said they feel that upon dismissal they will return to Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's chambers to see about the remedy that the Fund and the government would propose.

"It's really not about jurisdiction anymore. It's about what's the remedy. Are we going to try to rehabilitate in a slow and progressive way? Because the only other option would be to liquidate," Torres said.

"I don't believe that anyone wants that option. So the focus now is not for celebration of dismissal but for concern of the remedy of rehabilitation and that's what we look forward to working together on," he added.

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen's group, counsel for two unnamed retirees, first brought up the motion to dismiss on the grounds that the Fund's structure and statutory existence makes it clear that it is a "governmental unit" of the CNMI. The U.S. Trustee followed the motion to dismiss on the same grounds, quickly followed by two retirees, former Tinian senator Esteven M. King, the CNMI government, and CPA.

In his tentative ruling issued Tuesday, Faris said the Fund's board of trustees should be praised, not criticized, for commencing the bankruptcy case.

"The trustees find themselves in an intolerable position. The Fund for which they are responsible is caught between an irresistible force—obligations to retirees which it cannot pay—and an immovable object—the government, which has persistently failed to pay its debt to the Fund," Faris said.

"The trustees' attempt to find a solution to this dilemma is creative and praiseworthy, even though I am inclined to rule that it cannot succeed, " the judge added.

BLOCK

From Page 1

ing, paying all these costly attorneys, only for a district court judge to say that the Fund is a government entity," said Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan).

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration "would rather move forward with its plans for the Fund than to see much of the Fund's assets be drastically reduced because of exorbitant attorneys' fees."

He said the administration is "absolutely not" supporting the Fund's filing of an appeal, if any.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the Fund "should be immediately placed under emergency."

"The Fund should not be allowed to appeal. It's costly, and it's the retirees and active members' money that are being used to pay the legal costs. It will deplete faster the Fund's money. The only people making money here are the attorneys," Cabrera said.

He said if and when the Fund is transferred under the Department of Finance or another government entity, the administrative costs and legal fees will be lower.

While there's no telling what the governor's emergency declaration will contain, Dela Cruz hopes it will block the Fund from filing an appeal, and would explain clearly the administration's plan related to a five-year buyback into the U.S. Social Security system for existing active Fund members and future members, as well as plans for the current retirees, among other things.

"I hope that EO also contains the latest developments in the ongoing discussions between the administration and the U.S. Social Security, so that everyone would understand and decide whether to fully support the plan or not," he said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos reiterated that the administration plans to declare a state of emergency for the Fund when a final court decision on bankruptcy filing has been rendered.

Among the administration's plans beside a buyback into the Social Security is to place the Fund under the Department of Finance, which will continue to disburse retirement pension to retirees, reducing administrative costs. He said the Fund could then also do away with lots of attorneys.

As of early last night, the administration has yet to issue an emergency declaration for the Fund.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it's "very unfortunate that we're sidetracked by the filing of the bankruptcy."

"Now the governor has to take a hand-on approach to the Retirement Fund issue. More than a month later, $475 an hour in attorney's fees later and hundreds of thousands of dollars in all other legal fees later, we're still in the same place we were before the filing of the bankruptcy filing," he said.

The Senate president reiterated that one of the priorities now should be to meet Judge Kenneth Govendo's June 15 deadline for all parties involved to come up with a solution and legislative initiatives to prolong the Fund's lifespan.

Manglona said the administration's plan to buyback into the Social Security should be continuously explored.

"That's something we support," he said.

But Manglona said this is just one of the many aspects that need to be addressed, mainly to take care of many active employees and future employees.

He said another aspect is to prolong the Fund's lifespan for the retirees. He reiterated his request for the House to pass Senate initiatives and bills that seek to help the Fund, including one that gives 25 percent of government revenues to the Fund, tax rebate cuts, and transferring government assets to the Fund.

"I'm not aware of what the governor intends to do with his Fund emergency declaration. I hope that will help reduce the $50 million or so that the Fund withdraws from its investments just to pay pensions," he said.

Commonwealth Retirees Association director Diego Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, and speaker, said he's "mad" and "disappointed that we wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars" for that bankruptcy filing.

"It makes you question the fiduciary responsibility of the Fund board of trustees. I truly believe we wasted a lot of very important funds. I am hoping that the administration—and I believe Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos is in charge of Fund issues—will be able to convince Fund administrator Richard Villagomez and the board members not to appeal the judge ruling," he said.

He said the Fund should instead continue working with the administration and the Legislature.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), who has been critical of the Fund's spending on professional service fees, said he does not agree with placing the Fund under a state of emergency but if it is the only way to stop the Fund from appealing the federal court's ruling, then he will not object.

"No more appeal. We should all work together instead of letting lawyers do it for us," he added.

MAG-12 Marines fix roads, help Tinian economy

By LANCE CPL. CHARLIE CLARK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Staff Sgt. Jose R. Camberos, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Engineer Company heavy equipment operator operations chief, guides a MCT-850JR May 31, to repair a road on Tinian Island during Exercise Gieger Fury 2012. The purpose of Exercise Geiger Fury is to execute and assess combined expeditionary operations in the South Pacific.

TINIAN—Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 Marines performed expeditionary road repair training to help the Tinian economy and boost morale with its people here May 31, 2012.

As soon as U.S. forces captured Tinian from the Japanese in August 1944, SeaBees of the Sixth Naval Construction Brigade built an incredible system of roads in the same grid pattern as Manhattan was created. They also built six massive B-29 bomber strips with lengths of 8,500 feet, along with miles of taxiways with "hardstands" sufficient to park 400-plus aircraft.

But 65 years of erosion from the elements and tourist travel has left Tinian with few paved roads. Most of the alternate routes on island are in a state of disrepair and are difficult for the average vehicle to navigate.

Luckily, these roads provide excellent training for the heavy equipment operators who need the earth moving experience to hone their skills in an expeditionary environment.

"There were a lot of cracks down the center of the road," said Staff Sgt. Jose R. Camberos, MAG-12, MWSS-171, Engineer Company heavy equipment operator operations chief. "This road leads to a popular tourist destination called 'Long Beach.' We're not only helping ourselves with getting some extra training out of the way, we're helping the Tinian people and their economy by repairing this road. I think the relationship between the Marines and the Tinian people is growing because of this training."

The terrain on Tinian has provided unique training opportunities while performing the repairs.

"It's hard work since we're mainly working with coral and limestone," Camberos said. "We've had to get out the shovels and pitchforks. We're even taking out the rocks by hand to ensure the ground will be smooth for the ride out to the beach. The Marines will get to go back to their shops and teach the Marines who aren't here what they have learned, which is a lot."

The Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni-based Marines appreciate the opportunity to get this kind of training under their belts.

"For the past two weeks, we were repairing a runway," said Lance Cpl. Jacob H. Nolan, MAG-12, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. "Repairing this road adds to that training. This is exactly what we would be doing in a combat environment as a MWSS: building or repairing runways and air fields for our aircraft to safely operate on."

The training on Tinian never seems to end. But the challenges of hot weather, rough terrain, and sleeping on cots won't stop the MAG-12 Marines from completing training and building bridges with the people of Tinian.

Inos swears in three PUC nominees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos swears into office Zenie P. Mafnas, Joseph C. Guerrero, and Oscar P. Quitugua as new members of the Public Utilities Commission on Thursday at the Office of the Governor.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos swore into office Thursday three Public Utilities Commission appointees who are expected to start buckling down to business, including reviewing proposed new rates by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and pending contract awards, among other things.

In a brief ceremony, Inos swore into office PUC commissioners Zenie P. Mafnas representing Tinian, Joseph C. Guerrero representing Saipan, and Oscar P. Quitugua representing Rota.

Quitugua was a member of the CUC board of directors and is currently with the Public School System on Rota.

"I recognize that this is going to be a tough job," he said, but added that he is willing to serve once again the CNMI people. "I will do what I can to help the CNMI become much better."

Mafnas is a grant writer for the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., has a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting, and a bachelor of science degree in accounting, all from Chaminade University of Honolulu.

She described CUC's crisis as "great challenge."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed CUC under a state of emergency again over financial, procurement, and hiring crisis.

Guerrero, meanwhile, is director of finance at August Healthcare Group LLC, which runs Saint Michael's Medical Response. He has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Oregon, and graduated magna cum laude from Washington State University when he obtained his bachelor's degree in business.

"I look forward to upholding the duties and responsibilities bestowed on us," he said, adding that he would ensure transparency.

Inos, in an interview with reporters, said having a PUC quorum does not necessarily mean that the CUC emergency declaration will be lifted.

"Most of the issues addressed in the emergency declaration are operational issues, policy issues. PUC is more a regulatory agency and in that manner they will be involved when it comes to regulatory issues…CUC will have to first propose a rate change then PUC of course has to hear it," he said, adding that PUC will also have to review CUC contracts.

Keynotes music school to mark 10th year with recital, concert

Keynotes School of Music is inviting the public to its celebration of its 10th anniversary. To mark this milestone in the school's history, KSM will be holding two exciting musical events tomorrow, June 3, 2012, at the Pedro A. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"The 10th Anniversary Recital" from 2pm to 4pm will feature beginners as well intermediate students who will showcase what they have learned so far in playing their favorite instruments. Admission is free.

"The Dream Concert" from 6pm to 8pm will feature advanced students. Admission is $5.

Please come and join us celebrate and enjoy the musical presentations of KSM students. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Board of Trustees
Public Notice - Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday June 5th, 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  A. ICS Contract Issues, Transition, Revenue Cycle Management.
  B. FY 2012-13 Budget
  C. Cost Cutting Initiatives
  D. Hospital Emergency Contingency Plan Update
  E. MPLT Line of Credit Review
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Senior Management Reports
  B. Status Reports RHC / THC
  C. Short Term / Immediate Expenditure Review.
  D. Public Information Policies
  E. Critical Staffing Issues
  F. Energy Proposal Review
  G. Hospital Assessment RFP Review
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
  A. Legal Matters
  B. Personnel Matters
  C. Other Matters
VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
VIII. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Beyond the 'tipping point' in Syria

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Thursday, May 31:*

Kofi Annan, the United Nations' special envoy for Syria, believes the horrific massacre by suspected pro-government militias of more than 100 people, mostly women and children, in the township of Houla will serve as a "tipping point." But toward what action should that atrocity "tip" the international community or the "Friends of Syria," an association of sympathetic nations? Should the United States arm rebel forces, as GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney proposes, or engage in airstrikes against President Bashar Assad's forces, as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., advocates? Or should it stay out of the conflict between Assad and his opponents altogether and let events take their course?

We continue to oppose a potentially costly U.S. military involvement in Syria, which is a vastly better-defended country than Libya and an ally of Iran. Though less extreme than direct intervention, providing weapons to the Free Syrian Army is also problematic. The political agenda of the rebels is still unfocused, and an infusion of arms would escalate the violence without guaranteeing an early overthrow of the Assad regime.

It is easy for Romney to accuse the administration of a "policy of paralysis" on Syria. But the U.S. and its allies have been active on several fronts, both substantive (economic sanctions) and symbolic (the expulsion of Syrian diplomats). The principal problem they have encountered is a refusal by Russia and China to join in a condemnation of the Assad regime by the U.N. Security Council. Even after the Houla massacre, Russia's deputy foreign minister said it was premature for the Security Council to consider "any new measures."

Yet there are also signs that even Russia is losing patience with Assad, who has repeatedly reneged on commitments to stop military attacks on his opponents, release political prisoners and engage in political dialogue. On Sunday, Russia joined in a Security Council statement criticizing Syria for the artillery and tank bombardment of Houla, and it may be receptive to a request by the Obama administration that it restrict its economic dealings with Assad.

Painstaking pressure on Syria is not as dramatic as the chest-thumping actions proposed by Romney and McCain. But its goal is to isolate Assad without involving the United States in another intervention in the Middle East. Recent experience suggests that such engagements don't always accomplish their goals and that they often drag on much longer than intended. If the events in Houla create a tipping point that accelerates international opposition to Assad without requiring a new international war, so much the better.

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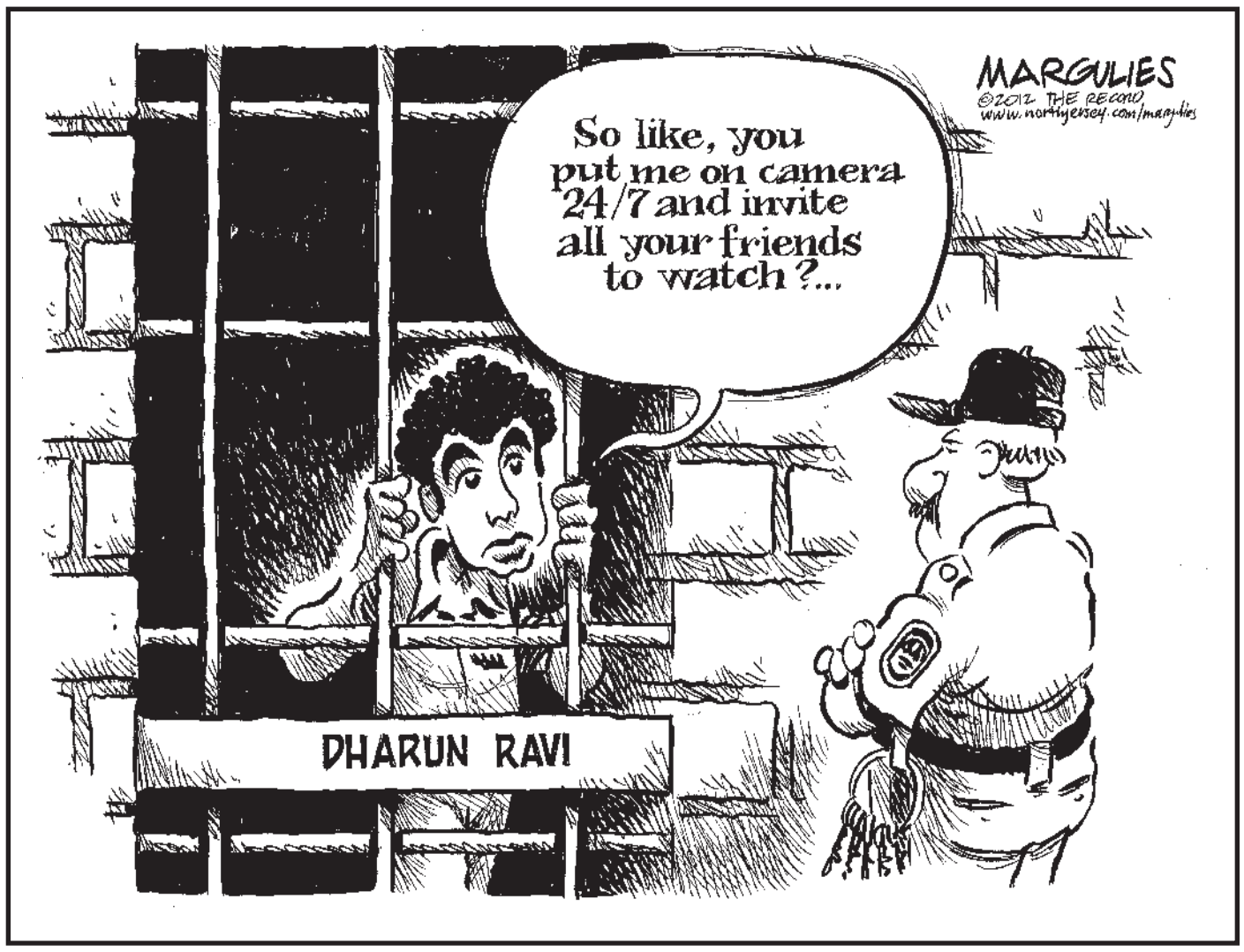
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So like, you put me on camera 24/7 and invite all your friends to watch?...
DHARUN RAVI

End of May

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Karen Ann sings *End of May,* a favored song mentioned by a few of my oral English students. As is customary at the beginning of each semester, in the student profile provided at the beginning of the term, is included a mention of their favorite English song. I would then locate the lyrics and use them as a teaching tool to further the depth of their language comprehension and the fluency in their speaking.

End of May has come, the end of spring, and now a dry sweat in a scorching summer. China is already in the scourge of summer, expected to last until late September with no relief in sight, according to our meteorologist.

May was the month that a dear institution I related to for most of my conscious life, the United Methodist Church, concluded its quadrennial session in Florida. I had since forsaken membership of the institution, not out of emotional despair or intellectual disdain, but simply getting tired of organized irrelevance.

The much quoted Lutheran reformer Dietrich Bonheoffer who bucked the German citadels that saw fit to align themselves with the swastika, or, at least, be uncritical of the insidious Nazi occupation of the German soul, paid dearly for his involvement in the attempted assassination of Herr Hitler. He wrote: *"The church is the church only when it exists for others. To make a start, it should give away all its property to those in need. The clergy must live solely on the free-will offerings of congregations, or possibly engage in some secular calling. The church…exist[s] for others."*

Jesus was the paradigm for "man for others" ("man" = "human" in today's lingo) and the whole structure of Christendom was for this man's disciples to follow in his footsteps, in the manner appropriate in their own time and space.

We left the Roman Catholic communion a long time ago so we will not delve too much on Benedict's predicament in the Vatican, now that his butler turns out to have some rather incriminating documents in his possession. Suffice it to say that his critique on the sisters of mercy in his domain being "humans for others" in family planning are criticized for not explicitly condemning the use of contraceptives!

I will stick to my own recent grounds. The UMC General Conference (GC2012, to the technocrats) once more saw homophobia reign, a bellwether sign that the institution trails the evolutionary path of progressive inclusiveness in society.

Only 53 percent of those in attendance would extend unconditional grace as foundational to church membership. The institutional captivity of the UMC stems from the long shadows of U.S. Midwest missionaries who waylaid the inroads of modernism in the mission field (Asbury and Wheaton Colleges were started to stem evolutionary thinking in academe) and left faithful families of local oligarchs who continue mid-19th century teachings. Heartless science was left to define divine *saeculum* (the created order), ripe for *ekklesias* (household of YHWH) taking, if I may be allowed these archaic metaphors.

The Immanuel United Methodist Church, with its Caucasian, Pacific Islander, Korean, Chinese and Filipino communicants gathered at Koblerville, was the reason for my moving to Saipan more than a decade ago. I was promised minimal interference from a heavily episcopal structure whose basic decision-making loci is Pasadena, SoCal. We will just say that the arrangement did not work well. A parting of ways was mutually agreed upon and though *Sarang hae* still echoes from my lips on occasion, in memory of the generous *Hanggul Saram* at Kobler, the congregation that prides itself as practicing the ethos of *open minds, open hearts, and open doors,* is susceptible to the charge of fraud and false advertising.

What I did carry out from the tradition, aside from a radically redefined articulation of the Christian message, is neither theology nor ontology but epistemology (pardon the use of ancient words)—methods. I became methodical, at heart, save that my quest is no longer in being a "follower of the way" as it is a pedagogue in the art and science of being "human for others." There is a sense in which I always understood that to be my vocation, but we were once equally guilty in being too preoccupied in polishing the silver when we might have been more focused on the meal!

We cater to a particular menu in the classroom. We wrote our own syllabi, a furlong distant from the university stated aim of preparing students to pass standard tests, inviting students to meet their images of themselves while learning the intricacies of a communication tool called "English." Through the discipline of learning the language that originated in the British Isles, we invite our students to describe their objective experience of their own lives, express the feelings and articulate their thoughts, and take on the task of making choices in a culture accustomed to relying mostly in the deterministic stoicism presented by external causes and the longed for chance of good fortune.

In the process, somehow their inherited identity and vocation is affirmed, and in some cases, a few even get around to meet the depth, height, breadth and greatness of their own personal existence.

My former Saipan religious colleagues, the last I checked, now meet in CK. Wonder what "method" of humanness they are up to these days.

It is the end of May.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Talks with Iran produce delays, not progress

By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

To almost no one's surprise, the latest round of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program produced no progress, and concluded with an agreement to meet again and hold more talks. Once again, world leaders—and Iran—have opted to kick the problem down road, each hoping to obtain a different result.

If there is one thing that Europe, the United States and Iran agree on right now is that nobody wants a war to start, not yet.

Even though Iran rejected a new set of proposals presented at the Baghdad meeting by the so-called P5+1—the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany—everyone smiled faintly and agreed to another set of meetings in Moscow this June.

Even if U.S. officials became convinced that there is no chance Iran will ever compromise on its nuclear program, the Obama administration does not want a war with Iran at this time, since it could affect the November elections. Europe, for its part, is terrified of a conflict that could send oil prices higher and raise even more obstacles during an economic crisis.

Iran wants to continue making progress towards its nuclear goals, and it wants the world to start gradually accepting that it will not dismantle its nuclear facilities. Even if Tehran agrees at the last minute to stop short of building a weapon, it hopes to hold on to as much of the program as possible so that it can either cheat after an agreement or freeze progress at a point where Iranian nuclear engineers have only a short sprint left to build the bomb.

Iran's nuclear advisor Hamidreza Taraghi recently boasted to The New York Times of how the West has gradually come to accept Iran's crossing of "red lines." First, he explained, the West said Iran could not have a nuclear reactor. Then it said it would not tolerate heavy-water facilities. Then it drew the line at uranium enrichment. Iran has crossed all the lines, and all of these are now elements of Iran's nuclear program, apparently accepted by the West.

But Washington and its allies—and much of the world—say Iran should not be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. President Obama says that the United States will do whatever it takes to prevent it. And there is surprising international support for that position.

A new Pew poll of 21 countries showed widespread opposition to a nuclear-armed Iran weapon, not only in the West but also in Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. Majorities, in fact, expressed support for military intervention in a number of countries, including the United States, Britain, France, the Czech Republic, Poland and others.

The U.N.'s nuclear agency has expressed deep concerns about possible "military dimensions" of Iran's nuclear program. U.N. inspectors just announced finding traces of 27-percent enriched uranium, the highest yet, and after Baghdad talks Iran repeated it sees no reason to halt uranium enrichment to levels much higher than civilian uses require.

The United States, Israel and many others believe Tehran's ultimate aim is to produce nuclear weapons, while Iran maintains it is enriching uranium only to develop energy and medical isotopes.

Despite its claims to have only peaceful intentions, Iranian officials made statements ahead of the Baghdad talks that served as a reminder of why the world—and Israel in particular—are so nervous about the prospects of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Last week, the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, declared that Iran's "cause" is "the full annihilation of Israel." And even as the talks were getting started in Baghdad, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamaei told his audience at a military academy that the West is being "weakened and destroyed."

Iranians are clever negotiators and until now they have managed to delay and run the clock while continuing nuclear advances. But, to its credit, the West refused to give in to Tehran's demands that it ease existing sanctions and postpone new ones in exchange for minimal concessions. The sanctions are hurting and there's a chance they could still work.

In the end, however, sanctions are not an end in themselves. If they fail to produce specific goals, they will have failed.

To see if substantial results are achieved in negotiations, watch for two words: Parchin and Fordo. Parchin is the place where U.N. inspectors believe detonation tests are conducted, and Fordo is the site of a heavily fortified complex where enrichment most worries Israel and the West, because it would be hard to destroy with a military attack.

If no progress is made in gaining access and dismantling those locations, everything else amounts to delay, not progress.

Graduation message: Dear Digital Son...

By BRUCE STOCKLER
Los Angeles Times

Bruce Stockler, who works in the advertising industry, wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Graduation season is upon us, and words of wisdom will be flowing to the class of 2012 in commencement speeches from boldface personalities such as Michelle Obama, Steve Wozniak and Steve Carell.

A little closer to home, I would like to offer a few insights from my dying analog generation to one high school senior in particular, who will soon be heading to the University of Chicago. Because he spends most of his time locked in his room, on his computer, ignoring my emails and texts, this is what I hope to share with him during one of our rare face-to-face encounters.

■ Your friends will become your surrogate family once the cruel, Darwinian abandonment of your parents and siblings is complete. And by friends, I refer to those rare few people who will bring you soup when you are sick, correct your tendency toward self-aggrandizement and do whatever onerous favors that are the Digital Age equivalent of driving you to the airport. A Facebook friend will not drag you to the health clinic when you develop a mysterious and fast-spreading rash.

■ Read books for pleasure. Buy old books you hope to dive into someday, even if you never do. Cherish the weight of a book on your chest as you fall asleep on a lazy winter afternoon. Books will still be here in 1,000 years. Pinterest will not.

■ A dive bar is a social platform. Tumblr is for publicly sharing awful photographs of railroad tracks and snowy branches no one wants to see, not even your mother.

■ Despite the ongoing existence of "Transformers," a movie is not the first layer of a multi-platform marketing scheme but rather a singular act of art to be experienced, debated with good friends over food, drinks and revisited years later. To see a film projected in a common, shared space is central to the experience; feeling the audience catch its breath when Peter O'Toole blows out the match in "Lawrence of Arabia" is a moment you will never forget. You will be hard-pressed to recall to your children the exact surroundings when you first enjoyed the serotonin-flooding epiphany that was "Charlie bit my finger" on YouTube.

■ Since the age of 20, I have started every day with strong coffee and several major daily newspapers. A newspaper provides a robust and reliable frame for my mental visualization of the world. Please do not let your frame be filled up by the Kardashians, conjoined twins, conspiracy theories, 46-pound cats and cancer-fighting Amazon lichens.

■ Though I can no longer imagine life before Google or Yelp, I do remember that I was happy, productive and healthy, the sun streamed with equal brightness, and my mind was deeply occupied by the mysteries of the universe.

■ Religious extremists, imprisoned serial killers and porn stars have followers. People who read your Twitter feed are probably just avoiding doing their actual work.

■ Texting is a wonderful way to avoid the intrusiveness of the average, non-urgent phone call, but outside of that narrow context, it serves only to enable people who cannot write a simple declarative sentence.

■ I have nothing helpful to say about your ability to hear, acquire and share new music. I cannot defend playing my vinyl copy of "The White Album" on any terms other than petty nostalgia, and I will take that false moral superiority to my grave.

Finally, a liberal arts education is an idea that has fallen out of favor with my generation and yours, and I am insanely proud that you have chosen that path. Let others pursue a narrow and relentless path toward one percentagery, but remember that very few people wake up every day and look forward to their labors. Most people only look forward to lunch.

Go out and discover the world and yourself. And if you have a chance, read that old copy of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.* You can ignore the notes scribbled in the margins. I'll explain that phenomenon another time.

Don't want to donate blood or organs? Fine...

By LANE FILLER
Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

Last week, nestled in my email inbox, was a plea from the New York Blood Center for platelets. I'm on their list because I donate fairly often, and they're doing a hard sell because a lot of donations happen via school and college programs. Summer brings dwindling supplies.

But why do we ever run low on blood, or organs and marrow needed for donation?

I've often heard people exclaim, "I would give, but I just don't like needles."

A note to anyone who says this: People willing to give blood aren't needle fetishists out for a cheap thrill. I mean, I love cheap thrills, but not ones involving blood loss.

Saying, "I'd donate blood, but I hate needles" is like saying "I would give to charity but I hate having less money."

At first blush, there appears to be a simple solution to the shortages of available organs, blood and marrow: If you aren't registered to be an organ donor, you can't be an organ recipient—or you at least must be below all the registered donors on the list. Ditto bone marrow. And if the blood supply gets real low, and you aren't a donor, no transfusions for you.

But it turns out that bright idea is about half bright.

According to Harry Schaffler, executive director of donor marketing for the New York Blood Center, blood donation in this country was done on a system of credits and debits up until about 50 years ago. Thus the term, "blood bank."

"The problem," said Schaffler, "was that people donated, earned the credit, and never donated again. So we went to a model we call 'community responsibility,' that encourages people to donate regardless, and that works better. While supplies do get low, we never truly run out."

Yet the idea is smart when applied to organs and marrow.

Alex Tabarrok, who heads the Center for Study of Public Choice at George Mason University, has a name for the concept that enrolled organ donors would start at the top of the list when they need transplants: "No Give, No Take." He says it's already helping in Israel, where the idea has just become law. Israel has had an unusually tough time getting people to become organ donors, but once the rules changed last month, the response was extraordinary. Israelis are offering up their organs in the case of their death so fast they are overwhelming the system.

There are exceptions that make sense. In Israel, people can't enroll to be organ donors until age 17, and children are put on wait lists based solely on their conditions. Some who need transplants don't have any organs healthy enough to harvest if they die, so putting them on a donor list doesn't make any sense. But in general, everyone ought to be willing to give marrow or have their organs harvested if they die—or be willing to die for lack of an organ or marrow because they hadn't agreed to donate.

In the United States, about 8,000 people die for lack of an organ donor annually. About 3,000 more die waiting for bone marrow. Simply put, if you're not a registered donor, you may someday be complicit in one of those deaths.

"There's a huge shortage of organs available," said Tabarrok. "With the increase of diabetes and other diseases, more organs are needed all the time. And when a patient dies with healthy organs and isn't enrolled, doctors won't push grieving families for organs."

The thought of donating organs or marrow freaks some people out. Like the needle-squeamish, they're just creeped out by it. But if we changed the law to "No Give, No Take," most would get over it—and a lot of lives would be saved.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86 ° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

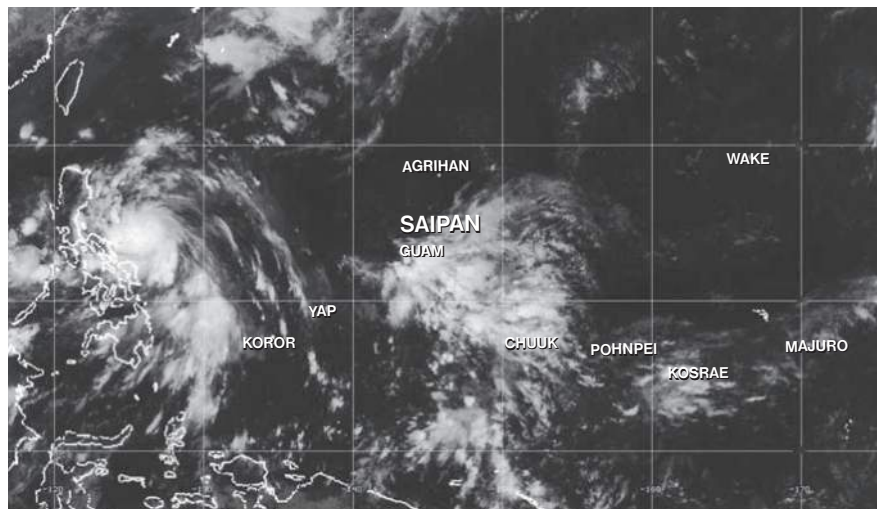
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼49
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
New York	Showers	▲70	▼59
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼62
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲81	▼60
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼62
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a tropical disturbance near the Philippines through 12N130E and a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap near 3N143E to end at EQ147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough north of Koror west of a line from 19N130E to 12N136E to 6N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen near the circulation within 100 miles of a line from 7N143E to 2N150E. A low-level trough reaches northeastward from the circulation to just east of Rota at 14N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are found over the southern Marianas and eastward between 8N and 15N from 144E to 154E and also just west of Chuuk within 65 miles of a line from 8N150E to 2N152E. An upper-level low centered over the northern CNMI near 18N145E is triggering isolated thunderstorms between 16N and 20N from 144E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over Kosrae and the southern Marshall Islands within 165 miles of a line from 1N158E to 8N173E to 13N180. Another upper-level low is centered east of Wake Island at 19N178E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near this low between 15N and 24N from 173E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
12:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:24 PM	3:16 AM
Sunday	5:29 PM	4:11 AM
Monday	6:35 PM	5:10 AM
Tuesday	7:38 PM	6:13 AM
Wednesday	8:36 PM	7:17 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				**SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)**			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5	UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 2, 1999

CDA funds MVA's exit survey
The Commonwealth Development Authority has agreed to provide a $40,000 financial assistance to the Marianas Visitors Authority in conducting exit surveys that would aid the tourism office in effectively marketing the CNMI overseas. The Department of Commerce will help MVA in implementing the survey by hiring the right people who will carry out the interviews. Originally, the tourism office planned to conduct a quarterly exit survey to acquire a more consistent data. But with a small funding, it might only carry out two exit surveys for this year. Last year, when MVA conducted a similar survey among Japanese tourists, it had difficulty in hiring interviewers due to limited budget. This time, MVA hopes to make a profile of the Korean visitors, the second biggest market of the CNMI, since it would guide tourism officials in improving its market reach.

Teno to US: Go easy on bombing exercise at FDM
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday asked the US military to consider the impact of its live bombing exercises at the Farallon De Mendinilla on the marine resources in the island, as more trainings have been scheduled by American troops. While the governor said he could not press Washington to discontinue such military exercises, he was hoping that the US "will be more seriously concerned about the environment." Under the Covenant, US soldiers are allowed to use FDM as a military training ground to strengthen their air and naval bombing skills.

Jun. 2, 2000

CDA, NMC join hands to facilitate growth in small business activities
The Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas College have agreed to synthesize efforts in order to facilitate the growth of economic activities in the Northern Marianas through the increased participation of small businesses. Under the current setup, which is more of an informal partnership between the two agencies, NMC's Small Business Development Center provides the necessary counseling and consultation for hopeful local entrepreneurs while CDA provides the needed capital to start up a business. Officials of the two agencies strengthened their partnership during a meeting yesterday with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who declared June as the CNMI Small Business Development Month.

Govt unsure whether to join class suit
A planned class-action suit against federal officials and private companies responsible for the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Tanapag has hit a snag as the CNMI government weighs whether or not to accept an offer from private lawyers to help in the litigation. A proposed contract drafted by the Texas-based lawyers for the legal action has been sitting with the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office since their visit to Saipan early last month, according to House legal counsel Steve Mackenzie. "It's up to the attorney general and the governor to determine whether to hire them or not," he told reporters in an interview yesterday. "As far as I know no determination has been made...and I don't know why."

Jun. 2, 2003

Federal funding sought for health initiative
The Babauta administration has asked for federal funding to finance the construction of more satellite health clinics on the island and to conduct a health needs assessment in the region. These, according to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, were the major issues that he raised during his conversation with visiting Health and Human Services regional director Dr. Josh Valdez last week. Valdez, who is the Health Secretary's direct representative for guidance and coordination of policies in the region, met with Babauta and top CNMI health officials led by Department of Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider Wednesday.

'BoS checks to be accepted in other banks soon'
The newly reopened Bank of Saipan expressed optimism about the revival of its checks' local clearing capability very soon, describing the expected approval of other CNMI banks as mere formality. BoS accounting manager Ronald Flores said this Saturday, less than a week since the bank resumed normal operations Tuesday. Just like before, Flores said that other CNMI banks would recognize new BoS checks, which would bear the markings "Marianas Pride" and an identification code per check.

Maharlika

Decision to shut down PH consulate on Saipan upheld

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Foreign Affairs has upheld its decision to shut down the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, saying the closure is primarily aimed at directing the department's limited resources to countries where there is a great number of Filipino workers, such as the Middle East.

Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis explained that the move will further augment the capacity of foreign service posts "to meet the increased demand for assistance-to-nationals and other consular services in that region."

Seguis' May 2 letter to United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte is a response long awaited by Filipinos working and residing in the CNMI, about 5,300 of whom signed the UFO petition seeking to retain the services of the consulate.

DFA announced in February its decision to include the Saipan consulate among the diplomatic posts that will be shut down within the year due to budgetary constraints. Its last day is on Oct. 31.

"The department assures the Filipino community [on] Saipan and Filipinos throughout the Northern Mariana Islands that the delivery of services will not be hampered since honorary consulates will be established in these areas by this year," Seguis wrote in his one-page letter, a scanned copy of which was circulated via email among leaders of member organizations of UFO.

Saipan Consul General Medardo Macaraig earlier said that he already has nominees for the position of honorary consuls on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The nominations, however, have to be confirmed by DFA and the U.S. State Department, he said.

Seguis

Seguis noted in his letter that the Guam consulate in Agana will work closely with Filipinos in the Commonwealth "and will also provide the necessary services you need."

Macaraig earlier said that his Guam counterpart, Bayani Mangibin, has expressed his commitment to the Filipino community in the CNMI as he takes over the responsibilities of the Saipan consulate.

Seguis said that DFA recognizes the Filipino community on Saipan as its "valuable partner" in promoting Philippine interests overseas.

"It looks forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern and seeks your support for the Philippine government's ongoing efforts to respond to the concerns of our *kababayans* in greater need of our limited services and resources," he concluded.

When asked for comment, UFO president Malasarte expressed disappointment with the finality of the department's decision. While he understands that the decision was prompted by DFA's lack of resources, Malasarte argued that the Saipan consulate should remain open since the number of Filipino workers in the CNMI remains significant at 8,000 to 11,000, based on estimates.

"I still believe that it would be more practical to keep the Saipan consulate rather than the Guam consulate because most Filipinos in Guam are already permanent residents or U.S. citizens. Here in the Northern Marianas, majority are still categorized as foreign workers," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

Still, he said, their group will support the Guam consulate as it takes over the consular jurisdiction of the CNMI and whoever will be appointed as honorary consulates on the three islands.

"UFO stands ready to provide its full cooperation and assistance," he added.

Officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo of the Saipan consulate, in a separate interview, alluded that even if they do not agree with the decision to shut down the office, DFA has already made clear its stance on the closure.

"Like what Consul General Macaraig always said, my own opinion will not matter anymore because the department has already rendered a final decision," he said.

Sto. Domingo assured the Filipino community that the Guam consulate, through Mangibin, has already welcomed the transfer of responsibilities and vowed to provide regular consular outreach services as well as dispatch an emergency team to the CNMI "if the need arises."

Australian envoy makes unofficial visit to PH consulate

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Martin Quinn, fifth from right, has his picture taken with Consulate staff led by officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo and Philippine Overseas Labor Office officer-in-charge Julie Fabian.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Australian Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Martin Quinn dropped by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan yesterday for an unofficial visit.

Quinn was welcomed by Consulate staff led by officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo and Philippine Overseas Labor Office officer-in-charge Julie Fabian.

Quinn was toured inside the Consulate office on the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, where he stayed for about half an hour to enjoy a cup of coffee and witness the volume of Filipinos seeking the services of the Consulate.

Sto. Domingo said in an interview yesterday that Quinn asked about the Consulate's plan to close down. The office's last day is on Oct. 31.

"Ambassador Quinn saw that the Philippine Consulate is very much busy and its services essential, so he remarked that the Consulate's presence on island is important. We informed him about the efforts of the Filipino community to request for the retention of the office but the decision to close down the Consulate is already final," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sto. Domingo said that Quinn asked about the most recent population of Filipinos on Saipan, and was familiar that Filipinos and Chinese comprised the greatest number of foreign workers in the Commonwealth at the peak of the garment industry in the late '90s.

He said the visiting ambassador also inquired about the current immigration status of and policies affecting Filipino workers on the islands and shared that Australian nationals also fall under the foreign workers category in FSM and Palau, which falls under his jurisdiction.

According to the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website, Quinn graduated from the Sydney University and is a career foreign service officer with extensive professional experience in the Asia Pacific Region.

Among Quinn's diplomatic postings were as Foreign Policy Adviser at the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence in 2010, Australian Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009, Counselor at the Australian Embassy in Seoul, and First Secretary in Indonesia, and Third Secretary in Thailand.

China alarmed by Clinton's comments on West Philippine Sea

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

China has expressed concern about remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who said that Beijing's claim in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) exceeded what was permitted by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In a report posted Monday on its website, the Chinese Embassy in Makati City quoted Hong Lei, spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry, as saying that China had raised concerns about Clinton's opinion when other countries had chosen to adopt a hands-off policy on the issue.

"On the issue of the South China Sea, nonclaimant (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries and countries outside the region have adopted a position of not getting involved in territorial disputes," Hong said.

"On this important prerequisite and foundation, the Chinese side has consistently committed to safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea, region by means, such as negotiating and signing with Asean countries the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in parallel with our efforts to pursue dispute settlement through negotiations with countries directly concerned," she said.

Two Democratic U.S. senators—John Kerry and Barbara Boxer—also criticized China's claim in the West Philippine Sea at last week's hearing of the U.S. Senate committee on foreign relations.

Kerry, the panel chair, said "China and other countries are staking out illegal claims to the South China Sea and elsewhere."

Docomo is Pistang Pinoy major sponsor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has announced that a telecommunications provider will be a major sponsor for the 2012 *Pistang Pinoy*.

Bong Malasarte, president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, said yesterday that Docomo Pacific has agreed to donate $5,000 to subsidize the costs for UFO's biggest annual event.

» Consulate's PH Independence Day program to be finalized

This year's *Pistang Pinoy* (Filipino Fiesta) is slated for Sunday, June 10, at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

Malasarte disclosed that they have approached several businesses and presented them with a budget for *Pistang Pinoy*, which commemorates the Independence Day of the Philippines, and Docomo Pacific offered to donate the amount closest to their financial needs.

Docomo Pacific also sponsored UFO's inaugural Valentine event, *Pusong Pinoy* (Filipino Heart).

Its $5,000 donation makes them a *Mabuhay* sponsor, the event's highest sponsorship level bestowed on companies that donate $5,000 or more.

"UFO expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Docomo Pacific for providing us financial assistance that would allow the group to host an event that the entire community can enjoy," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

The president noted, however, that the doors are still open for other companies that want to help make the 2012 *Pistang Pinoy* fun and memorable.

PH Independence Day program

Philippine Consulate General officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo, in a separate interview, said yesterday that their office will support the annual event, especially since this would be the last time that the consulate can take part in *Pistang Pinoy*.

Due to budgetary constraints, the consulate will have its last day on Oct. 31 and its responsibilities will be transferred to the Philippine consulate in Agana, Guam.

The consulate has traditionally hosted a separate program commemorating Philippine Independence Day, and Sto. Domingo revealed that this year's program has yet to be finalized due to the absence of Consul General Medardo Macaraig.

Macaraig is in Manila to take care of his wife who had a stroke and is currently confined at the St. Luke's Medical Center Global City.

According to Sto. Domingo, it remains to be confirmed if Macaraig will be able to make it to the June 10 event.

Since this will be the consulate's last Philippine Independence Day celebration, Sto. Domingo said they are looking at having the flag raising ceremony to be led by the female staff of the consulate.

"Our proposed program is still subject for approval by the consul general. However, we can assure the Filipino community that we will do our best to provide a memorable Philippine Independence Day event," he added.

Qatar fire victim: 'Help me, I'm going to die'

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Frantic as the flames spread in a mall fire that killed 19 people in Qatar, Filipino nursery teacher Julie Ann Soco made one final call on her cellphone. "Help me, help me, I'm going to die," she pleaded with her aunt in the Philippines.

There was nothing the aunt could do.

Luzviminda Soco told The Associated Press on Thursday that she did not understand what the problem was and asked her niece to stop crying. The line was cut shortly after. Neither she nor Julie Ann's mother, a caregiver in Egypt, was able to reach her again.

Julie Ann Soco, 25, and two other Filipino teachers were among the dead in Monday's fire at the Gulf nation's biggest mall. Thirteen children at the nursery where Soco worked also were killed.

Qatar has issued arrest orders for the owner of a fire-ravaged mall and four others as investigations widened into possible safety lapses during a blaze.

The official Qatar News Agency said Attorney General Ali bin Feitais al-Marri also ordered the detention of the owner of the child care facility where the children and four workers died. The others facing arrest are mall officials, including the director of security.

Soco's aunt said her niece had planned to come home for a vacation in October, when she would have worked in Doha for two years.

She wanted to have a blessing in December for a newly built home for her family that she had helped finance, and to have a reunion with aunts and cousins she had regularly sent money to.

The nursery teacher was an only child. Her mother, a single parent, has been working in Egypt for more than five years. Luzvuminda helped raise Soco in their hometown in southern Cotabato city.

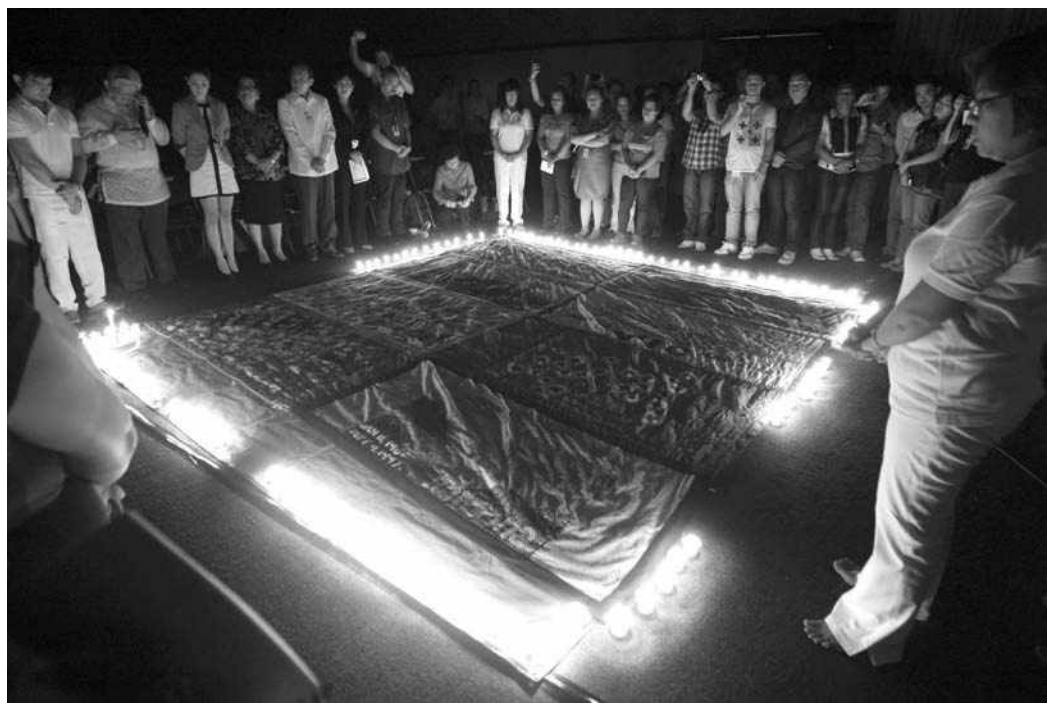
"It really pains her mother that they had not seen each other for many years, and now they will be together but her daughter is already a corpse," said her aunt in a telephone interview.

Soco's mother is scheduled to return to Cotabato next week, when Julie Ann's body is also expected from Qatar for a burial, the aunt said.

"She was a very good child. We had no problem with her," her aunt said, her voice cracking.

Soco and the other Filipino victims were among about 260,000 Filipinos workers in Qatar. They are part of a legion of 10 million Filipinos working abroad to escape crushing poverty and unemployment at home. The money they sent back helps their families make ends meet, taking care of monthly bills, housing, schools for children—and more.

They fuel domestic spending that's a lifeline of the Philippine economy and accounts for 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.



AIDS MEMORIAL AP

Filipinos gather around a quilt made by individuals who have died of HIV/AIDS during a ceremony to mark the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, Philippines on Thursday, May 31, 2012.

Filipino extremists stage more attacks

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants in the Philippines have staged more attacks in the last four years despite many battlefield setbacks, a military report said Thursday, blaming a failure of authorities to isolate the terrorists from their supporters.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has long been blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, launched 74 attacks last year, 19 percent more than in 2010.

The report, which assesses the first year of the government's new counterinsurgency program, said poverty and the large number of unlicensed firearms in the southern provinces of Sulu and Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf has jungle strongholds, have allowed the militants to survive and continue to sow terror.

Attacks by the Abu Sayyaf, which currently has 381 armed fighters, have steadily rose since 2007, when it mounted 31 assaults, despite the capture and killing of many Abu Sayyaf commanders and fighters in U.S.-backed military offensives, the military said.

Last year's attacks included 17 kidnappings for ransom, 18 armed assaults and 16 bombings, the military said.

A bomb strapped to a parked motorcycle exploded Thursday in Basilan's capital city of Isabela, wounding a motorist, police said. The blast also damaged two passing vehicles, including one carrying the city's vice mayor, who was not hurt.

Investigators were looking at the Abu Sayyaf as a suspect, although political rivalry may have also sparked the midday attack near the Isabela city hall, police said.

"Clearly, violence will persist as long as law enforcement is ineffective and the socio-economic and political conditions in Sulu and Basilan do not improve," according to the military report.

Sulu police chief Antonio Freyra disagreed with the military assessment, saying law enforcement in the region has continued to be "relatively effective" despite the limited number of police and the wide expanse of jungle and uninhabited hinterland they have to cover.

While Abu Sayyaf attacks still occur, they are far fewer today than the massive kidnappings and bombings that terrorized Sulu and outlying provinces in early 2000 when the brutal group still had many commanders and had strong ties with terrorist groups like the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, Freyra told The Associated Press.

He acknowledged the Abu Sayyaf continues to be backed by supporters, mostly relatives and other allied armed groups, which provide food, guns and sanctuary when the militants come under military attack.

The Abu Sayyaf—or Bearer of the Sword—was founded in 1991 in predominantly Muslim Basilan province. With an unwieldy collective of preachers and outlaws, it vowed to wage jihad, or holy war, but lost its key leaders early in combat, sending it on a violent path of extremism and criminality.

The U.S. military deployed troops to the southern Philippines in 2002 to provide combat training, intelligence and drone surveillance to Filipino troops battling the militants. The American deployment then was sparked by the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping of three Americans, two of whom were killed while in the militants' custody.

PH economic growth in Q1 beats expectations

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine economy grew 6.4 percent in terms of gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2012, driven mainly by a robust services sector and higher domestic consumption, government officials said at a press briefing on Thursday.

National Statistical Coordination Board secretary-general Romulo A. Virola said that services contributed the most to GDP growth with 4.7 percentage points (the highest since the third quarter of 2004), followed by industry with 1.6 percentage points and agriculture, fisheries, and forestry with 0.1 percentage point.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said the first-quarter growth was well above the market's consensus forecast of 4.8 percent.

"Also, the Philippines posted the highest growth among Asean and other neighboring countries except China," said Balisacan, who is also the director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Growth for the quarter was supported by accelerated government spending (including for infrastructure and conditional cash-transfer spending), low prices which supported household consumption, better-than-anticipated exports performance, continued credit expansion, overseas remittances, tourism, and business and consumer confidence, Balisacan said.

According to NEDA, growth in the first quarter of 2012 translated to an increase in employment of 1.101 million, mainly in services and industry. Tourist arrivals reached 1.15 million in the same period. Overseas Filipino remittances increased by 5.4 percent to reach $4.84 billion in the first three months of 2012.

Balisacan said growth in the January-March period may be sustained in the second quarter and may even accelerate for the rest of the year.

As the first-quarter growth numbers exceeded most expectations, there comes the inevitable question of whether the growth is sustainable or at least translates to job creation and poverty reduction.

"The continued strong inflows of remittances, robust inbound tourist receipts and low inflation environment contributed to significant increases in employment creation, particularly in the services sector, which fueled consumption," Balisacan said.

However, Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said via e-mail that the better-than-expected economic growth may not necessarily be sustainable.

"Is the better-than-expected economic growth the result of playing around with price deflators? For example, agriculture shrank by 3.1 percent in nominal terms; yet it increased by 1 percent in real terms. That's silly unless food prices fell during the period, which they didn't," he said.

Diokno also pointed out that exports growth exceeding imports growth, as shown in government figures, is "unusual" considering the small growth of exports. He said this may indicate that imports, especially electronic products that make up the bulk of shipments, must really be low given the recent growth in petroleum imports.

PH to receive 10 new patrol ships from Japan

By FRANCES MANGOSING
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines is acquiring 10 brand new patrol ships from Japan to boost the country's territorial defense in the West Philippine Sea.

"Japan is offering assistance [to boost] our maritime capability," Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told reporters in a phone interview.

Vice Admiral Edmund Tan of the Philippine Coast Guard said the patrol ships will be used by the PCG.

The loan is now for approval of the National Economic Development Authority, Tan said.

Asked when the ships would arrive in the Philippines, Tan said it would depend on the "processing" of the papers.

"There's still no approval," he told reporters by phone. "We have to go to the process."

Tan did not discuss further details.

In March, weeks before a standoff between China and Philippines began in the Scarborough Shoal, media reports in South Korea and Japan said Tokyo would provide the Philippines with patrol ships by year's end.

The Japanese embassy in the Philippines on Thursday, however, said Tokyo has "not yet officially decided" if it would provide patrol vessels to Manila.

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Samu't Sari

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
The Marines of Marine Wing Support Squadron-171, Marine Aircraft Group-12, have their picture taken with the C-130 that landed on Tinian's North Field Baker runway on Wednesday. Due to the tremendous efforts of Marine Wing Support Squadron-171, Marine Aircraft Group-12, the runway was cleared of the jungle that over the past 65 years had taken over what was once largest single airport in the Pacific, and from which the atomic bombs that brought an unconditional end to World War II were launched in 1945.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRAMINGHAM GRADUATES NMC
Framingham University program graduates take time to pose for a group photo after receiving their master's degree in education during a recent commencement exercise. The 20 graduates, who are also public school teachers, make up the ninth cohort to graduate with advanced degrees from the program bringing the total number of program graduates to 194. Instruction through Framingham University for CNMI residents has been provided through collaboration with the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute.

LAHOOD AND THE BIG G UOG
Prior to the University of Guam's commencement ceremonies on May 27, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, center, posed for a photo with the Big G and, from left, UOG executive assistant to the president Louise Toves, Sustainability Coordinator Elvie Tyler, acting director of Professional and International Programs Cathleen Moore-Linn, and dean of the School of Business and Public Administration Dr. Anita Enriquez.

GOOD JOB! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to Kiana C. Camacho for receiving the Student of the Month award! We love you, Kiana! Keep up the good work and study hard. Greetings coming from Mom, Dad, Boy and Alana.

NMI-PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP MONTH CLARISSA V. DAVID
Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and Philippine Consulate General officer-in-charge Jose Sto. Domingo, both seated, are flanked by Consulate staff and Filipino community leaders for a group photo after Inos signed a proclamation declaring June as Northern Mariana Islands - Philippines Friendship Month at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill on Thursday.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Advanced happy 19th birthday to Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja, who will be celebrating her special day on June 3. Wishing you a day as sunny as your smile, as warm as your heart, and as wonderful as you are. May God bless you. We love you so much! Greetings coming out from Mom, Erica and family, Shawn and family, Jenny and Jake, Rj and Dee and from the rest of the families and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Dennis Renguul! Today is not just the end of another year, it's the beginning of a new one. Greeting comes from your families and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Spain urged to come clean on bank bailout plan

MADRID (AP)—The European Union urged Spain on Thursday to come clean on how it plans to finance the overhaul of its banking sector, warning that uncertainty over this has contributed the recent market turmoil and the country's soaring borrowing costs.

A European Commission spokesman, Amadeu Altafaj, told Spanish National Radio that the conservative government in Madrid needed to spell out quickly how it plans to finance the recapitalization of troubled lender Bankia SA and whether there are other banks burdened by toxic real estate assets that might need assistance.

The government nationalized Bankia earlier this month, and the (EURO)19 billion ($23.6 billion) in public money that will need to be injected is more than twice what the government had estimated.

Doubts over how recession-hit Spain will handle the bailout have sparked concerns that the country itself will soon follow Greece, Portugal and Ireland in asking for financial assistance. Spain's borrowing costs on the international debt markets—a sign of investor confidence in how well it can pay off its debt—have hit worrying levels while its stock prices have been taking a pounding.

"No one can expect that, with these negative results of some banks, the markets can react with euphoria," Altafaj said.

Spain's deputy prime minister was headed to Washington to discuss the economic crisis with the U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund, which has been involved in all previous sovereign bailouts in Europe.

But the IMF says it has not been asked by Spain for a bailout and has not begun preparing one. Saenz de Santamaria said that it was coincidental that she was coming to Washington in the midst of the banking crisis because her meetings were scheduled months ago.

Lagarde called her meeting with Saenz de Santamaria productive. She also denied a Wall Street Journal report that the IMF was drawing up plans for a rescue loan for Spain.

"There is no such plan," she said.

Saenz de Santamaria said that she discussed with Geithner some of the ideas being discussed in Europe about how to set up a fund to recapitalize European banks.

"The problem is not Spain as a country," she said. "But our financial system in a given moment has needs just like the other states had at other times."

Euro structure is 'unsustainable,' ECB chief warns

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The head of the European Central Bank warned Thursday that the euro currency union is "unsustainable" without stronger political and financial ties, and called for a new course to save it from a crippling debt crisis.

Mario Draghi heaped criticism on European political leaders for being slow to respond to the 2 1/2-year crisis, saying delays and half-measures had only made the situation worse.

Speaking to the European Parliament in Brussels, Draghi said the central bank has done what it could to fight the problems by reducing interest rates and giving $1.2 trillion ((EURO)1 trillion) in emergency loans to banks. Now, he said, it is up to the 17 member countries to devise a broad vision for the future.

The ECB cannot "fill the vacuum of the lack of action by national governments," he said, urging sweeping reforms to spur growth, reduce deficits and create a Europe-wide banking regulator.

Beyond that, the euro needs a fundamental reworking of its rules and management, he said, calling the current structure "unsustainable unless further steps are taken."

Europe's leaders need to "clarify what is the vision ... what is the euro going to look like a certain number of years from now? The sooner this has been specified, the better," said Draghi, a plain-speaking Italian and MIT-trained economist.

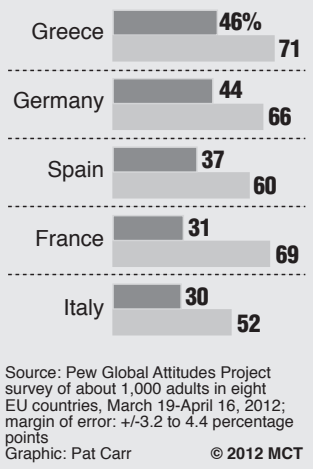
"What we are saying is to dispel this fog."

The blunt diagnosis from the ECB chief came as the eurozone enters another tumultuous period of financial and political instability. Investors are worried that recession-hit Spain will be unable to prop up its banks burdened by toxic bad loans—and that it will follow Greece, Portugal and Ireland in asking for an international bailout the eurozone can ill afford. These jitters have sent Spain's borrowing costs soaring and stock markets plummeting.

And in just over two weeks Greece returns to the polls with the real possibility that it might elect a government that rejects the terms of its multibillion-dollar bailout. This could force the country out of the euro, irreparably fracturing the eurozone and further roiling markets.

Rating the euro

Despite a two-year crisis and the fact that most do not think the euro has been good for them, people in five eurozone countries say they do not want to return to their old currencies.



Source: Pew Global Attitudes Project survey of about 1,000 adults in eight EU countries, March 19-April 16, 2012; margin of error: +/-3.2 to 4.4 percentage points
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2012 MCT

AP

A demonstrator shows a poster reading in Basque " Not cutback plans " against public schools and public services by Spain's government in Pamplona, northern Spain, Thursday, May 31, 2012.

US economy appears weaker ahead of jobs report

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy is looking slightly weaker one day before a critical report on May job growth.

Economic growth was a little slower in the first three months of the year than first estimated, largely because governments and consumers spent less and businesses restocked their supplies more slowly.

The number of people who applied for unemployment benefits rose to a five-week high last week. And a survey of private companies showed only modest hiring gains last month.

Still, a softer job market hasn't caused Americans to scale back spending. Consumers spent more at retail stores in May than the same month last year, buying more clothes and Mother's Day gifts.

The mostly disappointing data kept the Dow Jones Industrial Average on pace to record its first monthly loss since September. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note sank to 1.56 percent, a 66-year low.

Thursday's data showed that:

■ The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the first three months of the year, the Commerce Department said in its second of three estimates of January-March growth. That's lower than its initial estimate of 2.2 percent.

■ Weekly applications for unemployment aid rose 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 383,000, the Labor Department said.

■ Private businesses added 133,000 jobs last month, according to a survey by payroll provider ADP. That figure disappointed most economists, who had hoped to see job growth accelerate after ADP's survey found that just 113,000 jobs were added in April.

Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Research, said he was discouraged by the slowdown in first-quarter growth.

"This report does little to change the perception of an economy ticking along at a moderate pace but failing to break out into a full-on recovery with consistently above-potential growth," Newland said.

When the government issues its report Friday on May employment, economists expect it to say that employers added 158,000 jobs. That would be better than in the past two months but far below the winter's pace of 252,000 jobs per month. They also expect no change in the unemployment rate, which was 8.1 percent in April.

Oracle gets another setback in Google dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Oracle Corp. received another setback Thursday as a federal judge in San Francisco undermined a central part of the company's multimillion dollar case against Google Inc. over its Android software for mobile devices.

Oracle had accused Google of copyright infringement in using "application programming interfaces," or APIs, that help Oracle's Java software work effectively. A jury found Google infringed on those APIs on May 7, but it couldn't agree on whether Google was covered under "fair use" protections in U.S. law. Without a fair-use determination, Oracle wasn't able to extract huge sums from Google.

Now, U.S. District Judge William Alsup said Google's use of the APIs wasn't covered by copyright law in the first place.

The effect of Thursday's ruling is limited because a jury had earlier reached an impasse on the issue of fair use. But the ruling could be important in any appeals.

Oracle said it will appeal the ruling.

Android now powers more than 300 million smartphones and tablet computers. Those devices are the chief competitors to Apple's iPhones and iPads. Google has driven the adoption of Android by giving the software away to manufacturers of phones and tablets. That would have been more difficult for Google to keep doing if the court had found that Google needed to pay Oracle millions of dollars to license Java technology.

The jury in the case had been asked to rule on the infringement and fair use questions on the assumption that the APIs were copyrightable. Alsup deferred a ruling on the broader copyright question until after the trial, which ended May 23.

Alsup ruled Thursday that Google didn't use Oracle's exact programming code in Android, but rather wrote its own code to produce the same functions. Although Google used some of the same phrases in the code, Alsup said it had to do so to maintain interoperability. Names, titles and short phrases aren't covered by copyright, and Google's use of those phrases amounted to that, he said.

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-26.41	-2.99	-10.02
-0.21%	-0.23%	-0.35%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0314	Hong Kong Dollar	7.761	Philippine Peso	43.4637
British Pound	0.65	Indian Rupee	55.895	Singapore Dollar	1.2872
Canadian Dollar	1.0352	Indonesian Rupiah	9424.38	South Korean Won	1177.82
Chinese Yuan	6.3705	Japanese Yen	78.4635	Swiss Franc	0.9722
Euro	0.8095	New Zealand Dollar	1.3291	Thailand Baht	31.837

Nation

Edwards acquitted on 1 count, mistrial on others

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—John Edwards' campaign finance fraud case ended in a mistrial Thursday when jurors acquitted him on one of six charges but were unable to decide whether he misused money from two wealthy donors to hide his pregnant mistress while he ran for president.

The trial exposed a sordid sex scandal that unfolded while Edwards' wife was dying of cancer, but prosecutors couldn't convince jurors that the ex-U.S. senator and 2004 vice presidential candidate masterminded a $1 million cover-up of his affair.

"While I do not believe I did anything illegal, or ever thought I was doing anything illegal, I did an awful, awful lot that was wrong and there is no one else responsible for my sins," Edwards said on the courthouse steps.

He also said he had hope for his future.

"I don't think God's through with me. I really believe he thinks there's still some good things I can do."

Edwards would have faced up to 30 years in prison and $1.5 million in fines if convicted of all charges. He did not testify, along with his mistress Rielle Hunter and the two donors whose money was at issue.

Jurors acquitted him on a charge of accepting illegal campaign contributions, involving $375,000 from elderly heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon in 2008. He had also been charged with illegally accepting $350,000 from Mellon in 2007, other donations from wealthy Texas attorney Fred Baron, filing a false campaign finance report and conspiracy.

AP

Ex-presidential candidate John Edwards speaks outside a federal courthouse as his daughter, Cate Edwards, left, and father Wallace Edwards, listen after his campaign finance fraud case ended in a mistrial Thursday, May 31, 2012 in Greensboro, N.C.

The jurors, who deliberated nine days, did not talk to the media as they left the courthouse. Several media organizations, including The Associated Press, have filed a motion asking for the names to be released but the judge has refused to release the information for at least a week.

Federal prosecutors are unlikely to retry the case, a law enforcement official told AP on the condition of anonymity because the decision will undergo review in the coming days.

The case was thrown into confusion earlier Thursday after observers filled the courtroom expecting to hear a verdict on all six counts. Jurors had sent a note to U.S. District Court Judge Catherine Eagles, reading, "we have finished our deliberations and have arrived at our decision on counts one through six."

But when the jury came into court, the foreman said jurors only had a decision on one count. Eagles sent jurors back to deliberate. About an hour later, the jury sent another note saying it had exhausted its discussions.

When the not guilty verdict was read, Edwards choked up, put a single finger to his lip and took a moment to compose himself. He turned to his daughter, Cate, in the first row and smiled.

After Eagles declared a mistrial and discharged the jury, Edwards hugged his daughter, his parents and his attorneys. Later, he thanked the jury and his family, even choking up when talking about the daughter he had with his mistress Rielle Hunter.

He called Frances Quinn Hunter precious "whom I love, more than any of you can ever imagine and I am so close to and so, so grateful for. I am grateful for all of my children."

The 6-week-long trial recounted the most intimate details of Edwards' affair with Hunter, including reference to a sex tape of the two together that was later ordered destroyed and the drama of Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, tearing off her shirt in front of her husband in a rage about a tabloid report of the affair.

It also featured testimony that sometimes read like political thriller, as aide Andrew Young described meeting Edwards on a secluded road, and Edwards warning him, "you can't hurt me."

Prosecutors said Edwards knew of the roughly $1 million being funneled to former aide Andrew Young and Hunter and was well aware of the $2,300 legal limit on campaign donations.

Defense of Marriage Act heads to US Supreme Court

BOSTON (AP)—A battle over a federal law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman appears headed for the Supreme Court after an appeals court ruled Thursday that denying benefits to married gay couples is unconstitutional.

In a unanimous decision, the three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said the 1996 law deprives gay couples of the rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples.

The court didn't rule on the law's more politically combustible provision—that states without same-sex marriage cannot be forced to recognize gay unions performed in states where it's legal. It also wasn't asked to address whether gay couples have a constitutional right to marry.

The law was passed at a time when it appeared Hawaii would legalize gay marriage. Since then, many states have instituted their own bans on gay marriage, while eight states have approved the practice, led by Massachusetts in 2004.

The court, the first federal appeals panel to rule against the benefits section of the law, agreed with a lower court judge who in 2010 concluded that the law interferes with the right of a state to define marriage and denies married gay couples federal benefits given to heterosexual married couples, including the ability to file joint tax returns. The ruling came in two lawsuits, one filed by the Boston-based legal group Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and the other by state Attorney General Martha Coakley.

"For me, it's more just about having equality and not having a system of first- and second-class marriages," said plaintiff Jonathan Knight, a financial associate at Harvard Medical School who married Marlin Nabors in 2006.

"I think we can do better, as a country, than that," said Knight, a plaintiff in the GLAD lawsuit.

Knight said the Defense of Marriage Act costs the couple an extra $1,000 a year because they cannot file a joint federal tax return.

Opponents of gay marriage blasted the decision.

"This ruling that a state can mandate to the federal government the definition of marriage for the sake of receiving federal benefits, we find really bizarre, rather arrogant, if I may say so," said Kris Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute.

Since Congress passed the law, eight states have approved gay marriage, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, Washington state and the District of Columbia. Maryland and Washington's laws are not yet in effect and may be subject to referendums.

Last year, President Barack Obama announced that the Department of Justice would no longer defend the constitutionality of the law. After that, House Speaker John Boehner convened the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group to defend it. The legal group argued the case before the appeals court.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the appeals court ruling is "in concert with the president's views." Obama, who once opposed gay marriage, declared his unequivocal personal support on May 9.

Carney wouldn't say whether the government would actively seek to have the law overturned if the case goes before the Supreme Court.

"I can't predict what the next steps will be in handling cases of this nature," Carney said.

The 1st Circuit said its ruling would not be enforced until the Supreme Court decides the case, meaning that same-sex married couples will not be eligible to receive the economic benefits denied by the law until the high court rules.

That's because the ruling only applies to states within the circuit—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire—and Puerto Rico. Only the Supreme Court has the final say in deciding whether a law passed by Congress is unconstitutional.

Until Congress passed the law, "the power to define marriage had always been left to individual states, the appeals court said in its ruling.

"One virtue of federalism is that it permits this diversity of governance based on local choice, but this applies as well to the states that have chosen to legalize same-sex marriage," Judge Michael Boudin wrote for the court. "Under current Supreme Court authority, Congress' denial of federal benefits to same-sex couples lawfully married in Massachusetts has not been adequately supported by any permissible federal interest."

Alongside Obama, George W. Bush steals the WH show

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's Barack Obama's house now, but his predecessor and political foil, George W. Bush, stole the show at the White House on Thursday with his wisecracks and grin.

"Thank you so much for inviting our rowdy friends to my hanging," the former president said, referring to members of his family and former staff, invited back to the executive mansion for the unveiling of his and Laura Bush's official portraits. "Behave yourselves," he jokingly admonished his crowd.

Bush told the current president he was pleased to know "that when you are wandering these halls as you wrestle with tough decisions, you will now be able to gaze at this portrait and ask, `What would George do?'"

Free from the stress of the presidency and after three years spent largely out of the spotlight, a relaxed and jovial Bush came back with his father, former President George H.W. Bush, for a rare gathering of three commanders in chief. Former first lady Barbara Bush was there, too, as were George W. and Laura's daughters, Jenna and Barbara.

While Bush, Obama and their wives spoke about the warmth between their families, there was little of that on display between the two presidents. They traded handshakes but no hugs. There was little casual small talk as they entered and exited the East Room or as they stood on stage together.

"We may have our differences politically, but the presidency transcends those differences," Obama said.

That the relationship between Obama and Bush is cordial but not close is hardly a surprise.

Obama is still bad-mouthing Bush's time in office, blaming him for the economic crisis, the soaring federal debt and the unfinished wars the Democrat inherited from his Republican predecessor. And in the midst of an election season, Obama is trying to lump the economic policies of his current Republican rival, Mitt Romney, in with Bush's.

Standing side by side in the grand, chandeliered East Room, Obama was mostly formal and subdued while Bush was lighthearted and engaging, relishing in the warm greetings from veterans of his two terms in office.

Bush said he was pleased that the White House portrait collection now starts and ends with a "George W." Noting that George Washington's portrait was famously saved by first lady Dolley Madison when the British burned the White House in 1814, Bush pointed to his own portrait and told Michelle Obama that "if anything happens, there's your man."

With a smile, the first lady assured him in her own remarks, "I promise, I'm going straight for" it in case of emergency.

The former president turned emotional as he spoke of his own portrait hanging near his father's—"No. 41" as he called him. On the verge of tears, the younger Bush thanked his father, who attended the ceremony in a wheelchair, for "the greatest gift possible, unconditional love."

More than any other president in recent memory, Bush has not just intentionally faded from the public spotlight but all but disappeared from it. He wrote his own remarks for Thursday's event, as he no longer employs a speechwriter.

It was just one week ago that Obama, revving up campaign donors, turned Bush into a punch line. Obama depicted Romney as a peddler of bad economic ideas, helping the rich at the expense of the middle class. He then added: "That was tried, remember? The last guy did all this."

Asia

Suu Kyi calls for 'healthy skepticism' on Myanmar

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's opposition leader and former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi urged the international community Friday to exercise "healthy skepticism" toward her country's reforms as it sheds a half-century of military rule.

It is not the first time that Suu Kyi has called for caution in the world's approach to Myanmar—but it is the first time the Nobel prize winner has uttered the sentiment on foreign soil in a speech that was broadcast live across several time zones.

After 24 years of isolation in Myanmar, Suu Kyi received a standing ovation as she took the podium at the World Economic Forum, where she delighted the audience with a story about being invited into the cockpit as she landed in Bangkok—her first international flight in decades. At first she marveled at the high-tech control panel but then was "completely fascinated by the lights" of modern Bangkok sprawled out below her.

The forum's founder, Klaus Schwab, introduced her as "one of the most extraordinary personalities this century."

AP

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the World Economic Forum on East Asia in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, June 1, 2012.

The 66-year-old Suu Kyi spent 15 out of 22 years locked under house arrest by the former military regime. She was granted freedom after Myanmar held elections in 2010 and was elected to Parliament in April, capping a stunning personal story.

Since elections last year, Myanmar's President Thein Sein has surprised much of the world by engineering sweeping reforms, but Suu Kyi noted that the country is still in the very early phases of making democratic reforms.

"These days I am coming across what I call reckless optimism," she said, drawing applause from the room packed with several hundred people and a wall of TV cameras. "A little bit of healthy skepticism I think is in order."

Myanmar's reforms have prompted the U.S. and Europe to ease economic sanctions they imposed during the military's regime, but some human rights groups have warned that while those moves are good for the country's development they will weaken incentives to continue democratic reforms.

Suu Kyi's speech lasted about 10 minutes and was followed by a question-answer session with Schwab. She focused her talk on how the world could help "that little piece of the world that some of us call Burma and some of us call Myanmar."

She listed the country's most essential needs as secondary education to foster political reforms and jobs to end high youth unemployment that she called "a time bomb." She said Myanmar still lacks rule of law and an independent judiciary.

"We need basic education in Burma," she said, "the kind of education that will enable our people to earn a decent living for themselves."

Myanmar's sputtering economy, in ruins after half a century of military rule and years of harsh Western sanctions, has led to huge unemployment and has forced millions of people to seek jobs abroad.

"I keep telling our people, it's true that we are behind everyone else but it means we can learn from the mistakes of everyone else," she said.

Dressed in blue silk with a strand of white flowers in her hair, Suu Kyi drew laughter from the crowd as she shared the anecdote of her first impressions of leaving Myanmar after 24 years of isolation. Suu Kyi said that the captain of her Thai Airways flight was "so very kind as to invite me to sit in the cockpit."

Bangkok is a stark contrast to sleepy Yangon where rolling blackouts due to electricity shortages have spurred protests for more than a week. Thirty years ago the two cities were not so far apart, she said, but: "Now the difference is considerable."

She drew laughter from the audience by adding: "What went through my mind was, 'We need an energy policy!'"

Russian jet's data recorder found in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Villagers have found the flight data recorder from a Russian passenger jet that slammed into an Indonesian volcano three weeks ago and killed 45 people, officials said Thursday. The data it contains could help explain what caused the crash.

Another part of the Sukhoi Superjet 100's "black box," the cockpit voice recorder, was found about a week after the May 9 accident during a demonstration flight for potential buyers.

However, the flight data recorder—which logged data such as the jet's altitude, speed and route—was buried in a landslide after the plane smashed into the side of Mount Salak, said Daryatmo, chief of Indonesia's search and rescue agency.

He said the recorder was in good condition when nine villagers found it Wednesday in a deep ravine.

They found the device after rains washed away some of the earth, said the search mission chief, Col. A.M. Putranto.

Digging with farm tools, dozens of villagers who assisted in the search also found remains of victims and other parts of the plane, including its tail, a control lever and a compressor, Putranto said.

Indonesian and Russian investigators are analyzing both recorders in a laboratory in Jakarta to try to determine the cause of the crash, said Tatang Kurniadi, who heads Indonesia's transportation safety commission. It might take up to a year to finish the investigation, he said.

Kurniadi said investigators have finalized transcription from the cockpit voice recorder, and those recordings are being analyzed with assistance from an interpreter.

The Superjet is intended to help resurrect Russia's aerospace industry.

The plane was being demonstrated for representatives of Indonesia's fast-expanding domestic airlines, which are among its biggest potential buyers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nepal Supreme Court judge killed, 2 people wounded

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Motorcycle-riding assailants shot and killed a Supreme Court judge under investigation for allegedly taking bribes as he headed to work in the Nepalese capital Thursday, police said. Rana Bahadur Bam's bodyguard and another passenger in his car were also wounded in the attack as the judge was driven to work after worshipping at a Hindu temple. Bam was being investigated by the Judiciary Council for allegedly taking bribes from suspects charged with abduction in 2010 in exchange for releasing them with light sentences and fines.

Samoa marks independence by releasing 35 prisoners

APIA, Samoa (AP)—Samoa says it will release 35 prisoners as an act of forgiveness as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. Samoa's head of state made the announcement Friday as he spoke to thousands gathered at the parliamentary grounds in Apia. Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi told the crowd that at times of celebration, it's important to believe in the powers of forgiveness and mercy. He didn't say who would be released or what their crimes were. Government officials could not be immediately reached for comment Friday. Samoa is spending about $2 million on four days of festivities to celebrate its independence from New Zealand in 1962. Formerly known as Western Samoa, the South Pacific island nation is home to 194,000 people.

Thai politics heats up with protest at Parliament

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government protesters in Thailand have blocked parliament to stop the opening debate on a contentious bill they fear could pave the way for the return of deposed exleader Thaksin Shinawatra. About 2,000 people from the so-called Yellow Shirt movement that opposes Thaksin blocked roads Friday leading to Parliament. They denied entry to most lawmakers scheduled to discuss the so-called reconciliation bill. The bill would grant amnesty to all parties involved in political violence and wrongdoing from the end of 2005 through mid-2010, a period when Thailand was wracked by political turmoil and protest

China fails to halt Tiananmen book's HK release

HONG KONG (AP)—A new book that offers a surprising reassessment of the Tiananmen Square crackdown through interviews with a disgraced former Beijing mayor went on sale Friday in Hong Kong despite efforts by Chinese authorities to stop the sale.

"Conversations With Chen Xitong," which is not available in mainland China, is based on interviews with Chen, who was mayor of Beijing during the 1989 crackdown. Chen has long been portrayed as having supported the military assault, but in the book he says the crackdown was an avoidable tragedy and that he regrets the loss of life, though he denies being directly responsible.

Publisher Bao Pu said Thursday that Chinese Communist Party officials had asked the book's author, Yao Jianfu, to stop its distribution in Hong Kong, a semiautonomous region of China that enjoys Western-style civil liberties not seen on the mainland, including free speech.

The officials said "they would take care of any financial loss if it is recalled," Bao recounts Yao telling him. But by that point, the book had already been sent to shops, so it was "already a done deal," Bao said.

There was strong interest in the 267-page book at some Hong Kong bookstores, where sales Friday appeared to be brisk. Staff at the Greenfield Book Store in Mong Kok district said about 40 copies had already been sold by noon. They also reported fielding 70 to 80 phone calls about the book from people speaking both the local Cantonese dialect and Mandarin, which is more common on the mainland.

At Cosmos Books in Wan Chai district, a dozen copies were stacked on a table with other books out front, while another two dozen had been set aside for customers to pick up later.

Chen was eventually deposed as Beijing's Communist Party boss for corruption and is serving a 16-year prison sentence, effectively silencing him. Yao was able to talk with Chen because he was released on medical parole.

Chen told Yao that the Tiananmen crackdown should never have happened and that he hoped the government would formally re-evaluate the event, in which the military crushed weekslong protests, killing hundreds, possibly thousands, of people.

The book adds to a growing debate ahead of a once-a-decade transfer of power in China later this year from one generation of party leaders to younger successors.

World

US is heaping new pressure on Russia over Syria

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The U.S. is heaping new pressure on Russia to change course and support international action in Syria, warning that intransigence by Moscow may lead to open civil war that could spill across the Middle East with devastating effects.

Speaking on Russia's doorstep in Denmark, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton derided the Russian government for continuing to support Syrian President Bashar Assad, even after last week's massacre of more than 100 people in the town of Houla. In pointed remarks Thursday, she said Russia's position "is going to help contribute to a civil war" and rejected Russian officials' insistence that their stance actually is helping to ease the crisis.

On the first stop of a European tour, Clinton said Russia and China would have to be on board before the U.S. and other nations might engage in what could become a protracted conflict in support of a disorganized rebel force.

Russia, along with China, has twice vetoed U.N. Security Council sanctions against Syria. Russia is Syria's closest ally other than isolated Iran, and Clinton said that without its support the international community is essentially frozen from taking concrete steps to end the violence.

"The Russians keep telling us they want to do everything they can to avoid a civil war because they believe that the violence would be catastrophic," Clinton said, noting that they are "vociferous in their claim that they are providing a stabilizing influence."

"I reject that," she said, complaining that in fact Russia is propping up Assad as his government continues a brutal, 15-month crackdown on dissent in which some 13,000 people have died.

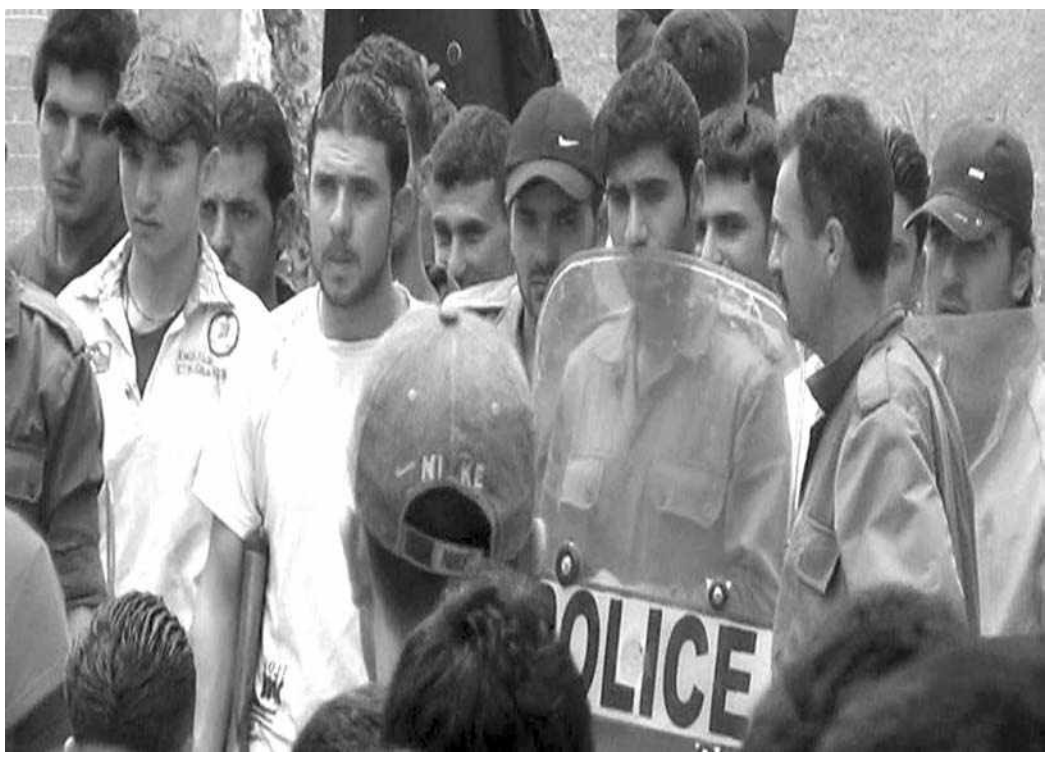
A day earlier, White House Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough said the U.S. is lobbying Russia to distance itself from its ally Syria and to apply pressure on Assad to leave office. A negotiated exit similar to one the U.S. helped broker for Yemen's longtime leader is one possibility, McDonough said, but he offered little optimism that the arguments are gaining traction.

The Obama administration has called on Assad to step down and clear the way for a political transition. But mindful of a war-weary American public, it has stopped short of advocating direct U.S. military engagement in the country and stressed the need for diplomacy, particularly with Moscow, which continues to sell weapons and provide political support to Assad.

In Washington, despite revulsion over the Houla massacre, officials said the administration remains deeply concerned about the possible consequences of military action. But as the violence continues, they acknowledge that planning for some sort of intervention is under way.

Two Western diplomats told The Associated Press that top U.S. and British commanders and intelligence officers visited the northern Jordanian city of Ramtha recently and toured the area along the Jordan-Syria border to assess the possibility of a limited land attack. But it was decided that air attacks would be best, considering the mostly bushy terrain and climate conditions, the diplomats said.

Still, Clinton told reporters after meeting top officials in Denmark, a key contributor to last year's NATO-led mission against Moammar Gadhafi in Libya that "we're nowhere near putting together any type of coalition other than to alleviate the suffering."



AP

In this citizen journalism image made and provide by the Kfar Suseh Coordinating of the Syrian Revolution, taken on May 8, 2012, Syrian militiamen known as "shabiha" are seen standing at an alley in Kfar suseh area, in Damascus, Syria.

Satellite photos said to show Iran nuke clean up

VIENNA (AP)—New commercial satellite images suggest that Iran has demolished two buildings at a military site where it is suspected of trying to erase evidence of a nuclear arms program, a U.S. nonproliferation think tank said Thursday.

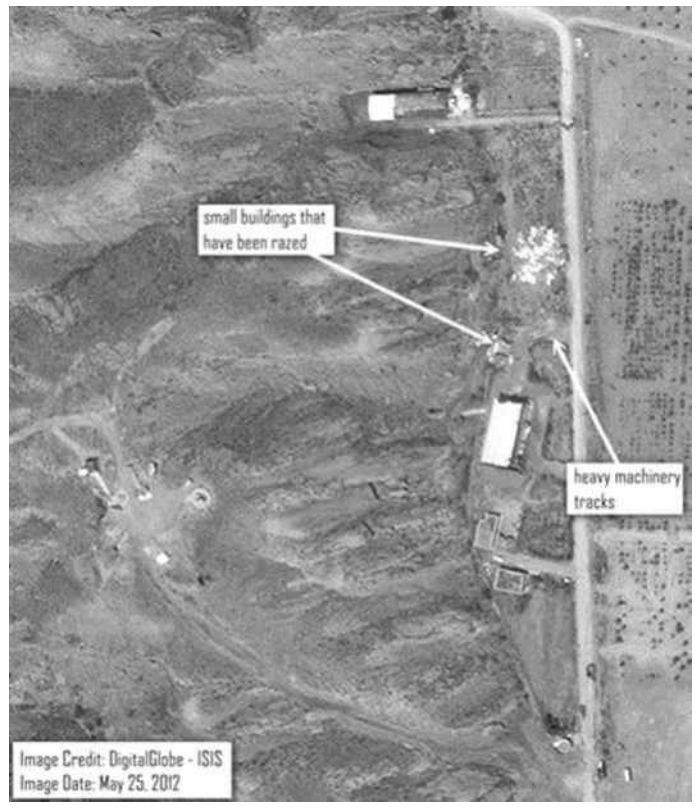
The images were published Thursday by the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, which provides consultancy services for U.S. government agencies focused on nonproliferation and is considered an objective source of information on Iran's nuclear program.

A senior diplomat who saw the photos displayed on the think tank's website and who is accredited to the International Atomic Energy Agency told The Associated Press they showed apparent cleanup work similar to that depicted on spy satellite photos supplied to the IAEA by member nations closely tracking Iran's nuclear activities.

The IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, presented some of those spy satellite images on Wednesday to the agency's 35-member nation board, prompting Iran's chief IAEA delegate Ali Asghar Soltanieh to dismiss allegations of a cleanup as "baseless."

Iran has consistently rejected accusations that it is attempting to erase traces possibly left by secret nuclear work at the Parchin military installation before granting U.N. inspectors permission to visit the facility. The Iranians contend that radioactive particles, should they exist, could not in fact be cleaned up. That is debatable, but the agency is looking for other evidence at Parchin as well, hoping to find traces left by the kind of high conventional explosives it suspects the Iranians tested there.

At stake is the threat an Iran armed with nuclear weapons could pose to its neighbors. The U.S. and Israel have indicated readiness to attack Iran if diplomacy and sanctions fail to curb its nuclear program. Both suspect that Iran is aiming to build nuclear weapons, and Israel believes it would be a prime target.



AP

This May 25, 2012 photo provided by the Institute for Science and International Security, ISIS shows the razing of two small support buildings in the Parchin military complex in Iran.

Mubarak trial verdict may divide Egypt further

CAIRO (AP)—Guilty or not, Saturday's verdict in Hosni Mubarak's trial will likely deepen Egypt's polarization. Political tensions are already simmering in a heated runoff for president pitting the ousted leader's last prime minister against an Islamist from a group that the old regime repeatedly cracked down.

The 84-year-old Mubarak, the first Arab leader to be tried by his own people, faces charges of complicity in the killing of some 900 protesters during last year's uprising that forced him from power.

If convicted, he could face the death penalty. He also faced separate corruption charges along with his two sons—one-time heir apparent Gamal and wealthy businessman Alaa—and a family friend who is on the run.

"We are so eagerly awaiting the verdict," said George Ishaq, who gained nationwide fame as a vocal critic of Mubarak's rule. "An innocent verdict will trigger a horrific reaction."

His trial mesmerized the nation, with images of him lying on a hospital gurney inside a defendants' cage of iron bars and barbed wire taken by most Egyptians to symbolize both their triumph over tyranny and the humiliation of a dictator who ruled for close to 30 years.

He rarely spoke and when it was time for him to address the court in his own defense, he chose to submit a letter in which he pleaded his innocence.

While in progress, the trial dominated the national conversation and fed tension in an already turbulent transitional period under the tutelage of the ruling generals who took over from him, with many convinced the process was just for show to appease protesters who demanded that Mubarak answers for his actions.

Mubarak loyalists frequently fought with relatives of dead protesters outside the court, a lecture hall in a police academy once named after him. Lawyers seeking damage for the victims' families, as well as publicity, occasionally chanted slogans against him in court.

The verdict comes just days after electoral officials announced that Mubarak's last prime minister and one-time protege Ahmed Shafiq is one of two candidates who made it into a presidential runoff slated for June 16-17.

Like his mentor, Shafiq is a career air force officer. He and Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood emerged from last week's first round vote as the top vote-getters in a field of 13 candidates.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian rebel group says it kidnapped 11 Lebanese

BEIRUT (AP)—A previously unknown Syrian rebel group says it's holding 11 Lebanese Shiite pilgrims kidnapped in Syria. The pilgrims were abducted on May 22, after crossing into Syria from Turkey on their way to Lebanon. The group calling itself Syrian Rebels in Aleppo said in a statement obtained by Al-Jazeera TV that the hostages are in good health.

Police think Canada body parts suspect fled abroad

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)—A Canadian porn actor suspected of mailing body parts to the headquarters of two major political parties after making a video of the killing might have fled to France, police said Thursday. A Montreal police official said they have information that Luka Rocco Magnotta might have left Canada for France but said his current whereabouts are not known. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to talk about the case publicly, gave no other details. Montreal Police Cmdr. Ian Lafreniere earlier said authorities believe Magnotta fled North America based on evidence they found at his apartment, and based on a blog Magnotta once wrote about how to disappear.

Somali militants again threaten Kenyan skyscrapers

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A private intelligence firm says the Somali militant group al-Shabab has threatened to bring down Kenya's skyscrapers within two weeks, a warning that followed a bomb attack in Nairobi's city center. IntelCenter said al-Shabab said Wednesday that "something big is coming" within the next two weeks. The posting said the country would soon "watch your towers coming down." "Two weeks from now you will weep," the al-Shabab threat said. The threat is the third time al-Shabab has said it would target Kenya's tall buildings.

YoungStyle

AP

In this May 5, 2012 photo, South Korean cyber activists listen to North Korean defector Lee Mi-yeon's lecture on national cyber security at Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in Suwon, South Korea. Young South Korean patriots turn to Internet to weed out pro-North Korean views.

SKorea teens flock online, snitch pro-North posts

By YOUKYUNG LEE
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Google is not just a search engine for 26-year-old South Korean Ma Han-joo. Nor is Twitter merely a fun way to share pics of K-pop stars. For Ma and thousands of other young conservative activists—many of them teenagers—they are crucial weapons in their campaign to scrub the Internet of North Korea sympathizers.

Ma, whose delicate frame and shy smile makes her an unlikely warrior in real life, uses Google in her spare time to search for blogs, videos and other Internet postings that identify fellow South Koreans who are "sincerely idolizing" communist North Korea.

In the past year, Ma has reported more than 30 online postings that she considered dangerous and which could "brainwash the minds of South Koreans" to the National Intelligence Service. Using search keywords such as "Great Leader" or "Nation's Sun"—references to the North's dynastic leadership—she trawls the Internet until finding offending content and then submits a link along with a screenshot online.

The agency uses the tips to investigate possible violations of South Korea's National Security Act which prohibits praising or glorifying North Korea—a crime punishable by up to seven years in prison. North and South Korea technically remain at war, having never signed a peace treaty after their 1950-53 conflict ended with a still uneasy truce.

The number of prosecutions under the security law, which are not limited to glorifying North Korea, has risen in recent years. Convictions are harder to secure but not uncommon. Last September, a 43-year-old South Korean man was sentenced to 10 months prison for operating a pro-North Korean website and posting over 300 messages and 6 videos praising North Korea.

The zealous policing of the Internet by a rising movement of young nationalists seems at odds with the wealthy, dynamic and democratic image that South Korea projects to the outside world. Yet for South Koreans it is unremarkable, even if not accepted in all corners of society. Anti-communist instruction was a staple of the curriculum in South Korea's schools into the 1980s. Liberal groups say similar anti-North Korea education has been revived under conservative President Lee Myung-bak, although the education ministry disputes that.

Activists like Ma see themselves as cyber guardians of national security, keeping the Internet in South Korea safe from infiltration by pro-North Korean ideas. In doing so, they have become a vigorous vanguard for enforcement of the national security law, which critics argue puts excessive limits on freedom of expression.

The young activists are a "manifestation of misleading patriotism," said Park Lae-goon, director of Human Rights Foundation Saram.

"Under the anti-communism environment, South Korean society has denied diverse values," Park said. "In a democratic society, we should be able to talk about different ideologies and opinions."

The National Intelligence Service sees it differently and rewards informants with a metal watch that has become a coveted item among teenagers. They call it "the One Watch," after "the One Ring" in the popular "The Lord of the Rings" movie trilogy.

Ma and another activist Park In-beom, 17, both received the One Watch. Park said he was extremely happy when he got the gift that came with a thank you letter from the spy agency.

"I realized I was doing the right thing," he said.

Many of the activists say it was North Korea's shelling of a South Korean island in 2010 that catalyzed their anger and mobilized them. It was the first assault by the North on a South Korean civilian area since the Korean War, singling it out from North Korea's other deadly provocations over the years.

At a recent retreat near Seoul attended by about 40 online campaigners, Park In-beom recalled that the attack made "his blood boil" and his body "shiver with indignation."

"I seriously contemplated what I can do for my country. Because I'm not an adult, I can contribute by reporting the posts that threaten national security in the cyber world," he said.

In summer or winter vacations, he goes online for two to three hours a day, wading through web page after web page looking for North Korea sympathizers. For each spell online, he would usually report three to four cases to the intelligence agency. He wants to work for the government in the area of national defense.

It is unclear if there is a link between the Internet patrolling and the rise in prosecutions or increased government censorship of the Internet. The amount of pro-North Korea commentary on the Internet and the level of censorship waxes and wanes with the degree of tension between the two nations.

The conservative government that took power in 2008 has taken a harder line against North Korea sympathizers. Last year it blocked access to 187 pro-North Korean accounts on Twitter and other social networking services. It also removed 79,038 online posts that glorified North Korea, about a 40-fold increase from 2008.

"Cyber activities undermining national security have been increasing but what the state can do about them is limited," said Yoo Dong-ryul, a senior researcher at the conservative Police Science Institute, a state-run think tank. The teenage activists are part of a "self-cleansing process without state intervention."

The Supreme Prosecutors Office said it received 127 recommendations to prosecute alleged violations of the security law last year, double the number in 2009. The number of suspects indicted rose from 43 to 63 in the same period.

In 2010, 52 people were indicted by prosecutors. Some 20 were found guilty and seven received prison sentences, according to Lee Yong-kyung, a former lawmaker of a minor opposition party, who received the figures from the Ministry of Justice.

It's not known how many of those prison sentences were for glorifying North Korea. The justice ministry and the Supreme Prosecutors' Office didn't respond to requests for details.

A focal point for the activists is Naver, South Korea's largest web portal, which hosts three online communities dedicated to weeding out pro-North Korean sentiment. All have started in the past one to two years.

The "Blue Eyes" community was launched following North Korea's artillery attack on Yeonpyeong island and attracted over 4,000 members with over half under 30, said its manager Jang Mun-jun. Another online group started by a 15-year-old attracted nearly 1,000 members, mostly teens, in a little over a year.

Members proudly share the screen images of pro-North Korean content they have submitted to the intelligence agency and encourage each other.

These have also made inroads into Twitter to counter left-wing pundits advancing reconciliation with the North. The microblogging service has become popular among South Korean liberals who are critical of President Lee Myung-bak.

"Twitter is not a tool for communication but a weapon," said one 16-year-old student who had reported more than 100 cases of pro-North Korean online content to the intelligence agency. "Joining Twitter is a must-do for patriotic activities." The student requested anonymity, citing the possibility of becoming a target for pro-North Korea activists who might include teachers.

Kim Jong-bo, a member of Lawyers for a Democratic Society, said that having grown up with anti-communism education, he can understand why students follow the government without questioning.

"I'd like to tell them to listen to different opinions," Kim said.

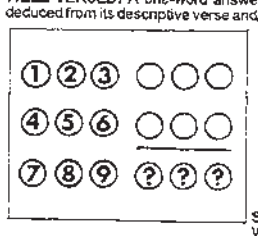
Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

WELL VERSED! A one-word answer to this classic charade may be deduced from its descriptive verse and/or letters in the crystal ball at right:

My FIRST is won and never lost;
reversed 'tis now, take heed. My
NEXT reversed is red as wine,
or yonder rose, indeed. My
WHOLE's so wondrous strange
that I must candidly confess,
Though you're ingenious, it will
be, a wonder if you guess.
What word am I?

Answer is the word WONDER
(Won, der)



SAY WHAT! What dessert fits every occasion? Pie a la mood. What animal is a messy painter? The splatterpus. What wind won't move a sailboat? A nil wind. What bee deals in counterfeit money? A bum bill bee.

PLUS & MINUS BRAINTEASE

TRY this problem in simple arithmetic. You are asked to:

Rearrange positions of numbers 1-9 so that a three-digit amount in the 600's at top will equal three times the amount in the middle; and top row minus middle will result in amount at the bottom.

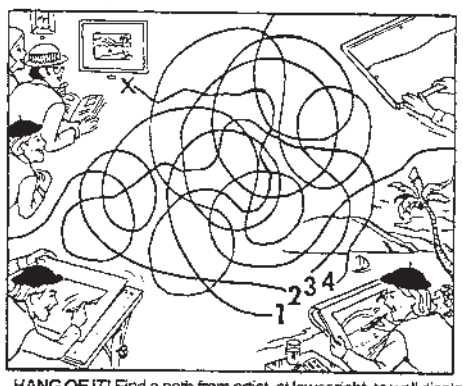
Each of the nine digits is to be used just once.

Remember, top row (in the 600's) is three times middle, and bottom row amount equals top minus middle. Simple?

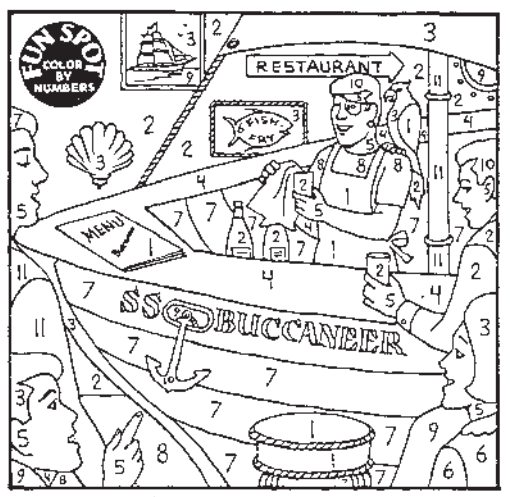
How quickly can you arrive at answer?

Time limit is two minutes.

Answer: 657 minus 219 equals 438, will do it.



HANG OF IT! Find a path from artist, at lower right, to wall display, at upper left. Which route leads to goal?



SHIP AHOY! Ahoy there mate, what's on the menu? Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Purple. 9—Dk. blue. 10—Black. 11—Lavender.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

INURBANE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Run, bean.

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Pets in distress

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, my cat "Clark Gable" got very ill -- vomiting frequently and lethargic. I had no idea what was wrong, so I called my veterinarian. The vet's assistant talked me through some important steps that I didn't know and wouldn't have been able to accomplish in my panicked state, such as looking at what C.G. was vomiting up and looking for possible sources of poisoning in my apartment. She advised me to bring him in immediately along with a sample of the vomit (gross, right?) and a couple of possible items he could have eaten.

The vet was able to quickly treat C.G., who has made a complete recovery. But I've become much more aware that I need to learn when my cat is in distress and how to prevent him getting into dangerous things—like the houseplant leaves he ingested. I hope you'll remind readers to educate themselves as well.—Clarence in Cincinnati

DEAR CLARENCE: Your story is more common than you'd think. Thanks for sharing it.

If you have a pet, it's very important to know that many household items can be dangerous if your pet ingests them. For example, many cats love to chew on the leaves of houseplants—but many houseplants are extremely poisonous to cats, especially plants from the lily family. Other seemingly benign things, like chocolate and onions, can be harmful to pets, especially dogs.

Even armed with the knowledge of what can harm your pet, accidents can happen. For example, a dog can break into the pantry and eat a giant bag of dog food. Make sure to display the phone number of your pet's veterinarian and the nearest emergency pet hospital near the telephone or on the refrigerator where you can access it should your pet ever be injured, ill or in distress.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was pop art icon Andy Warhol who made the following sage observation: "It's the movies that have really been running things in America since they were invented. They show you what to do, how to do it, when to do it, how to feel about it, and how to look when you feel about it."

■ If you were like the average rabbit, you would take 18 naps every day.

■ You probably know that the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz" was based on the book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum. You may not realize, though, that Baum wrote a total of 14 Oz books between 1900 and 1920. The series continued even after the author's death; Ruth Plumly Thompson produced one Oz book every year between 1921 and 1939.

■ Those who study such things say that wine was being drunk more than 7,000 years ago, in ancient Sumeria.

■ When the Coca-Cola Company first started marketing its product in China, the advertisements used Chinese symbols to spell out the brand's name phonetically. It was only after the ads had been published that the marketers learned that those symbols spelled out the phrase "bite the wax tadpole."

■ The manufacture of a single domestic automobile requires the use of a whopping 39,000 gallons of water.

■ Every year, about 10 percent of the world's population visits a zoo. In the United States, though, about half of us make such a visit annually.

■ Most people have about 100,000 hairs on their head. It's not clear why, but redheads tend to have somewhat fewer hairs—about 90,000—while blondes have more.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I'm willing to admit that I may not always be right, but I'm never wrong."
—Samuel Goldwyn

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MAGIC MAZE ● UNUSUAL ANIMALS

C G E B Y W U R P O N R K I G
D B Z X V S Q U L P O E K M K
I B A N D I C O O T G I E C A
Y W U S Q U C R E P D R N L J
H F E C T O B E S K A R Y X V
T U S U L E K K I Q A A P N M
K E C O A I J D O H R H F E D
C U C G R B Z N M B I Y X V R
T F L O W D R A A U E L O N A
T E L R V Q P L H O B H M L Z
K X A D D A I E C H G E R D I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aardwolf
Addax
Anole
Avocet
Bandicoot
Beira
Chamois
Colocolo
Dik-dik
Eland
Izard
Lorikeet
Porbeagle
Rhebok
Tucu-tucu

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		17
+		×		÷	
	+		+		15
÷		+		+	
	×		−		13
5		12		10	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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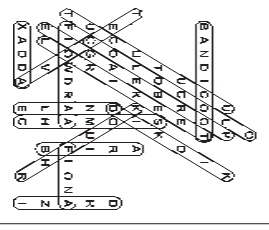
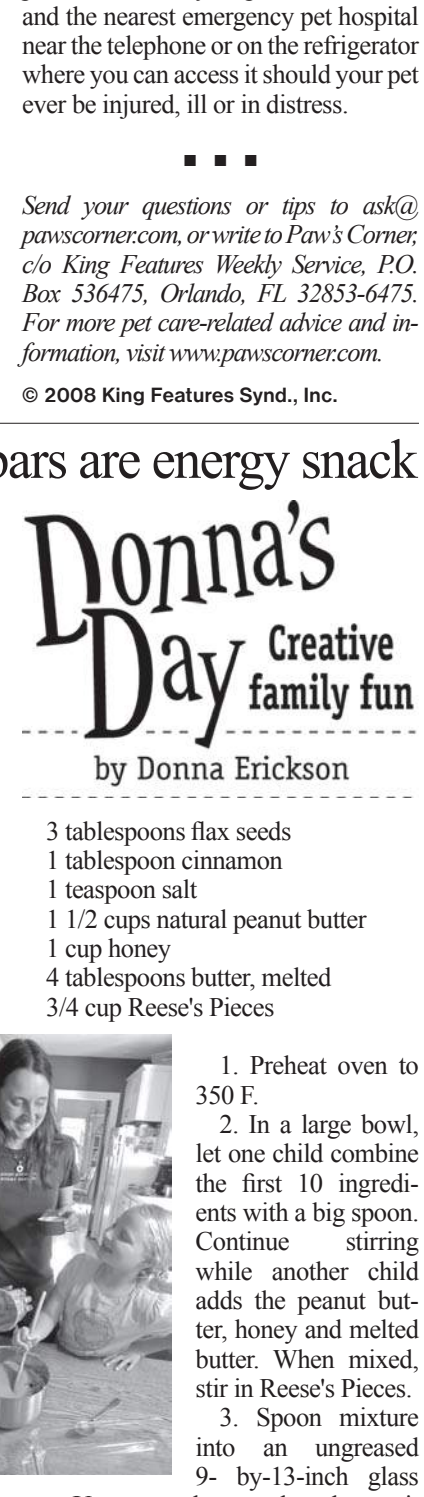
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	10		12		5
13	8	−	7	×	3
	+		+		÷
15	4	+	5	+	6
	÷		×		+
17	8	+	1	÷	9

Homemade power bars are energy snack



Neighborhoods hum and bustle with an extra dose of activity this time of year, and some households, like the Gustafson's, seem to be especially on the go -- make that "on the run," but in a good kind of way. Watching the action from the sidelines, I can't help but be inspired by this fit family. All four kids play hockey, baseball/softball and tennis, and two play soccer. Toss in the parents, and biking trumps driving the car whenever possible.

No wonder mom Angie always has her favorite chewy power bar recipe handy for easy reference. She and the kids enjoy making the tasty snack that is chock full of healthy ingredients, including flaxseed, wheat germ and raisins. Reese's Pieces are added to the mix, but she controls the amount.

"The original online 'Ultimate Power Bar' recipe, which has been passed from friend to friend, comes from Lunds, our neighborhood market where you can easily find all the ingredients," she says. "But, like most recipes I prepare, I tweak the ingredients to suit our tastes. The bars are ideal for school lunches, picnics and rest stops when we bike around town with our cycling club. I don't know a kid who doesn't like them -- even the picky eaters ask for the energy snack."

Make a batch this weekend with your kids and enjoy Angie's version or Lunds' original recipe (see resources below).

ANGIE'S ULTIMATE POWER BAR

3 1/2 cups oats
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup shredded coconut
2/3 cup sunflower seeds
1/2 cup toasted sesame seeds
1/2 cup wheat germ
1/2 cup oat bran
3 tablespoons flax seeds
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups natural peanut butter
1 cup honey
4 tablespoons butter, melted
3/4 cup Reese's Pieces

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. In a large bowl, let one child combine the first 10 ingredients with a big spoon. Continue stirring while another child adds the peanut butter, honey and melted butter. When mixed, stir in Reese's Pieces.

3. Spoon mixture into an ungreased 9- by-13-inch glass pan. Use a spatula to pack and press it down firmly. Bake 15-17 minutes. Let cool, then chill completely before slicing. Store bars in stacks separated by waxed paper in a covered container in the refrigerator. Makes 36 bars.

(Find the original "Ultimate Power Bar" recipe at www.lundsandbyerlys.com. Click "recipes" and search "Ultimate Power Bar.")n n n

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Mold is hazardous to home and health

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: For a few months now, I've noticed a mildewy odor in the downstairs bathroom. I keep the bathroom clean, and I even pour a cup of vinegar down the drains once a month, but the odor comes back. For now, I'm using an air freshener to mask the smell, but how can I locate and get rid of it?—Gaia M., Baton Rouge, La.

A: That mildew smell is most likely from mold growth. If you can't visually locate a patch of mildew or mold in the bathroom, such as in lower corners of the wall or the shower, contact a plumber. It's very likely that a water leak somewhere behind the wall is causing the mold problem.

Even a small amount of mold in a home can trigger allergies or breathing problems in many people. It's also a warning signal that water is damaging important parts of your home—not just the drywall but the wood framing, sheathing, foundation and more.

A leaky supply or drainpipe can mean water is dripping behind the walls. A plumber can inspect these pipes without causing damage to the rest of the bathroom. The plumber will then recommend the best action to take to stop the moisture damage and remove the mold. If mold is affecting carpet or wallpaper in the area, you'll need to replace those items as well.

If dampness is a constant problem in the bathroom, make sure the room is getting adequate airflow, even if the original problem is repaired. An exhaust fan is fairly inexpensive and quickly removes humidity from the bathroom—for example, after a hot shower. In many states a fan is required by building codes, and the plumber likely will recommend you install one if there isn't one already.

home tip

HOME TIP: Clean up mold with a mild detergent rather than bleach, which can irritate your lungs.

Send your questions, comments and tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Home watering holes raise the bar

MCT

When a home like this one by TaC Studios is designed for maximum efficiency, features like this raised bar area can become a social link between the kitchen and living area.

By FELICIA FEASTER
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA—What could be more delightful than adding something to your home that gives you nothing back but hours of enjoyment, relaxation and memories?

"I've seen grown men shed tears, they're so excited," said contractor Bob Wilson, the principal of Smyrna's Classic Bars who has installed 600 bars in a variety of homes.

During almost two decades building bars, Wilson has seen a more recent shift toward larger and more complex bars. Where a 6-foot-to-8-foot bar was once the standard, now bars tend to range anywhere from 8 to 16 feet.

The majority of Wilson's bars are done in mahogany, his preferred material. Wilson said that older folks reclaiming their home after children move out and men—most often—are currently the bulk of his business.

And the features contained within those bars would put any neighborhood pub to shame.

"There seem to be more amenities going in a bar than there were 18 years ago," Wilson noted. "Used to be, it was a sink and a refrigerator. Now it's sink, refrigerator, dishwasher, wine cabinet, beer tap, flat-screen TVs."

Wilson has even created bars with movable mirrored panels hiding antique gun rooms and disappearing doors leading into safe rooms.

Cindy Lites, the owner of E.A. Star Interiors in Johns Creek, Ga., had clients who incorporated a wood-burning pizza oven into their bar that opened to the outside pool area.

"In good times or bad times, everybody still wants a bar in their house," affirmed Lites, who has created a variety of such structures, from full-scale walk-behind wet bars to armoires cleverly retrofitted to create a dry bar. "There are a lot of people who don't want the bar to be as visible. They want the bar to serve multi-functions, not just to serve as an alcohol-serving bar."

MCT

An Ansley Park bar by Michael Habachy puts beautiful glassware on display, but features numerous cabinets to keep other bar supplies contained and close at hand.

But that's not always true.

West side interior designer Joel Kelly said, "I think bars are becoming more elaborate, having most of the features of an actual bar." Some of his clients have even included high tables and bar stools to lend more of the ambience of a true watering hole.

The type of bar you install depends most often on the space allowances of your home and whether you have room for a sink and refrigerator, or if a dry bar is more practical. Atlanta designers and contractors have located bars in kitchens, foyers, libraries, in the great room, off the dining room, and outdoors by the pool.

"Home bars don't have to have be an entire room," Kelly clarified. "They can be a dedicated cabinet in the kitchen with a small countertop and possibly a small sink. If there is a butler's pantry between the kitchen and dining rooms, often you can retrofit this into a service bar."

But the majority of home design experts said that basement-level bars are still the top choice when homeowners want a full-size bar experience and all of the amenities that entails.

"Some of our clients with huge houses want a full bar in their basement that feels like a bar in a nightclub," said interior designer Michael Habachy, who also has created a number of commercial bars for nightclubs.

"It makes sense with more and more houses being in the suburbs, for homeowners to entertain their friends without having to leave home," Habachy said.

"Personally, I feel that more and more men are going back to the roots of having a classic bar," Habachy said. "There is nothing more masculine than dark rosewood and an antique mirrored cabinet with all the finest bottles of cognac and bourbons proudly displayed."

Often, bars are meant as a way to entertain visitors.

"From a practical side, especially in the South, we tend to entertain at home, and one of the main things we tend to entertain around is alcohol in one form or another," Kelly said. "That's been a staple of Southern hospitality since the term was invented. I mean, what's more Southern than sipping a cold drink on a summer day on the front porch?"

MCT

This sleek, simple wet bar designed by Michael Habachy adds glamour to entertaining.

BUILDING A BETTER BAR

Whether your bar is a kitchen hutch that does double duty as a dessert station or the 16-foot mahogany centerpiece of your man cave, designers and contractors offer these tips for making it stylish and functional:

- **How much you entertain is something to consider when planning the amenities that will be featured in your bar. For clients who plan on frequently hiring a bartender or caterers, Classic Bars owner Bob Wilson recommended features such as warming drawers, two refrigerators and a larger ice maker be added to the bar.**
- **Think about a beautifully shaped, decorative—but still functional—sink in your bar, which can make for a great way to keep beer, water or wine cold and nicely displayed, interior designer Cindy Lites said.**
- **If space or budget is a concern, convert a piece of furniture into a bar. A skilled carpenter can modify an armoire or other piece of furniture and add features such as cabinets, drawers, a mirrored back, a rack for hanging wine glasses and a laminate or stone top, Lites said.**
- **Countertops are crucial. With the amount of potentially damaging and staining water, acidic citrus juices, red wine and alcohol involved, a durable work surface is critical. Corian stains and scratches too easily, said Lites, making it a less appealing option. Concrete, granite (make sure it is sealed) and hardwoods that are sealed appropriately can work well.**
- **If you are looking to put some wow factor into your countertops, consider anything from zinc sheet metal-clad countertops to leather wrapped surfaces, said Michael Habachy, an interior designer. "When the budget allows, I love to integrate backlit countertops or surfaces behind the bar using translucent materials and LED lighting."**

Life & Style

AP

In this June 8, 1972 file photo, crying children, including 9-year-old Kim Phuc, center, run down Route 1 near Trang Bang, Vietnam after an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places as South Vietnamese forces from the 25th Division walk behind them. A South Vietnamese plane accidentally dropped its flaming napalm on South Vietnamese troops and civilians. From left, the children are Phan Thanh Tam, younger brother of Kim Phuc, who lost an eye, Phan Thanh Phouc, youngest brother of Kim Phuc, Kim Phuc, and Kim's cousins Ho Van Bon, and Ho Thi Ting.

AP 'napalm girl' photo from Vietnam War turns 40

By MARGIE MASON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRANG BANG, Vietnam (AP)— In the picture, the girl will always be 9 years old and wailing "Too hot! Too hot!" as she runs down the road away from her burning Vietnamese village.

She will always be naked after blobs of sticky napalm melted through her clothes and layers of skin like jellied lava.

She will always be a victim without a name.

It only took a second for Associated Press photographer Huynh Cong "Nick" Ut to snap the iconic black-and-white image 40 years ago. It communicated the horrors of the Vietnam War in a way words could never describe, helping to end one of the most divisive wars in American history.

But beneath the photo lies a lesser-known story. It's the tale of a dying child brought together by chance with a young photographer. A moment captured in the chaos of war that would serve as both her savior and her curse on a journey to understand life's plan for her.

"I really wanted to escape from that little girl," says Kim Phuc, now 49. "But it seems to me that the picture didn't let me go."

■ ■ ■ ■

It was June 8, 1972, when Phuc heard the soldier's scream: "We have to run out of this place! They will bomb here, and we will be dead!"

Seconds later, she saw the tails of yellow and purple smoke bombs curling around the Cao Dai temple where her family had sheltered for three days, as north and south Vietnamese forces fought for control of their village.

The little girl heard a roar overhead and twisted her neck to look up. As the South Vietnamese Skyraider plane grew fatter and louder, it swooped down toward her, dropping canisters like tumbling eggs flipping end over end.

"Ba-boom! Ba-boom!"

The ground rocked. Then the heat of a hundred furnaces exploded as orange flames spit in all directions.

Fire danced up Phuc's left arm. The threads of her cotton clothes evaporated on contact. Trees became angry torches. Searing pain bit through skin and muscle.

"I will be ugly, and I'm not normal anymore," she thought, as her right hand brushed furiously across her blistering arm. "People will see me in a different way."

In shock, she sprinted down Highway 1 behind her older brother. She didn't see the foreign journalists gathered as she ran toward them, screaming.

Then, she lost consciousness.

■ ■ ■ ■

Ut, the 21-year-old Vietnamese photographer who took the picture, drove Phuc to a small hospital. There, he was told the child was too far gone to help. But he flashed his American press badge, demanded that doctors treat the girl and left assured that she would not be forgotten.

"I cried when I saw her running," said Ut, whose older brother was killed on assignment with the AP in the southern Mekong Delta. "If I don't help her—if something happened and she died—I think I'd kill myself after that."

Back at the office in what was then U.S.-backed Saigon, he developed his film. When the image of the naked little girl emerged, everyone feared it would be rejected because of the news agency's strict policy against nudity.

But veteran Vietnam photo editor Horst Faas took one look and knew it was a shot made to break the rules. He argued the photo's news value far outweighed any other concerns, and he won.

A couple of days after the image shocked the world, another journalist found out the little girl had somehow survived the attack. Christopher Wain, a correspondent for the British Independent Television Network who had given Phuc water from his canteen and drizzled it down her burning back at the scene, fought to have her transferred to the American-run Barsky unit. It was the only facility in Saigon equipped to deal with her severe injuries.

"I had no idea where I was or what happened to me," she said. "I woke up and I was in the hospital with so much pain, and then the nurses were around me. I woke up with a terrible fear."

Thirty percent of Phuc's tiny body was scorched raw by third-degree burns, though her face somehow remained untouched. Over time, her melted flesh began to heal.

"Every morning at 8 o'clock, the nurses put me in the burn bath to cut all my dead skin off," she said. "I just cried and when I could not stand it any longer, I just passed out."

After multiple skin grafts and surgeries, Phuc was finally allowed to leave,

AP

In this Aug. 17, 1989 file photo, Phan Thi Kim Phuc embraces Associated Press staff photographer Nick Ut during a reunion in Havana, Cuba.

13 months after the bombing. She had seen Ut's photo, which by then had won the Pulitzer Prize, but she was still unaware of its reach and power.

She just wanted to go home and be a child again.

■ ■ ■ ■

For a while, life did go somewhat back to normal. The photo was famous, but Phuc largely remained unknown except to those living in her tiny village near the Cambodian border. Ut and a few other journalists sometimes visited her, but that stopped after northern communist forces seized control of South Vietnam on April 30, 1975, ending the war.

Life under the new regime became tough. Medical treatment and painkillers were expensive and hard to find for the teenager, who still suffered extreme headaches and pain.

She worked hard and was accepted into medical school to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. But all that ended once the new communist leaders realized the propaganda value of the `napalm girl' in the photo.

She was forced to quit college and return to her home province, where she was trotted out to meet foreign journalists. The visits were monitored and controlled, her words scripted. She smiled and played her role, but the rage inside began to build and consume her.

"I wanted to escape that picture," she said. "I got burned by napalm, and I became a victim of war ... but growing up then, I became another kind of victim."

She turned to Cao Dai, her Vietnamese religion, for answers. But they didn't come.

"My heart was exactly like a black coffee cup," she said. "I wished I died in that attack with my cousin, with my south Vietnamese soldiers. I wish I died at that time so I won't suffer like that anymore ... it was so hard for me to carry all that burden with that hatred, with that anger and bitterness."

One day, while visiting a library, Phuc found a Bible. For the first time, she started believing her life had a plan.

Then suddenly, once again, the photo that had given her unwanted fame brought opportunity.

She traveled to West Germany in 1982 for medical care with the help of a foreign journalist. Later, Vietnam's prime minister, also touched by her story, made arrangements for her to study in Cuba.

She was finally free from the minders and reporters hounding her at home, but her life was far from normal. Ut, then working at the AP in Los Angeles, traveled to meet her in 1989, but they never had a moment alone. There was no way for him to know she desperately wanted his help again.

"I knew in my dream that one day Uncle Ut could help me to have freedom," said Phuc, referring to him by an affectionate Vietnamese term. "But I was in Cuba. I was really disappointed because I couldn't contact with him. I couldn't do anything."

■ ■ ■ ■

While at school, Phuc met a young Vietnamese man. She had never believed anyone would ever want her because of the ugly patchwork of scars that banded across her back and pitted her arm, but Bui Huy Toan seemed to love her more because of them.

The two decided to marry in 1992 and honeymoon in Moscow. On the flight back to Cuba, the newlyweds defected during a refueling stop in Canada. She was free.

Phuc contacted Ut to share the news, and he encouraged her to tell her story to the world. But she was done giving interviews and posing for photos.

"I have a husband and a new life and want to be normal like everyone else," she said.

The media eventually found Phuc living near Toronto, and she decided she needed to take control of her story. A book was written in 1999 and a documentary came out, at last the way she wanted it told. She was asked to become a U.N. Goodwill Ambassador to help victims of war. She and Ut have since reunited many times to tell their story, even traveling to London to meet the Queen.

"Today, I'm so happy I helped Kim," said Ut, who still works for AP and recently returned to Trang Bang village. "I call her my daughter."

After four decades, Phuc, now a mother of two sons, can finally look at the picture of herself running naked and understand why it remains so powerful. It had saved her, tested her and ultimately freed her.

"Most of the people, they know my picture but there's very few that know about my life," she said. "I'm so thankful that ... I can accept the picture as a powerful gift. Then it is my choice. Then I can work with it for peace."

New show gives close-up of women in wheelchairs

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

In this photo provided by the Sundance Channel, "Push Girls" stars, Auti Angel, left, and Mia Schaikewitz, right, dance it out at key locations throughout New York City to promote the Sundance Channel's new docu-series which explores the lives of four women living with paralysis, Thursday, May 31, 2012 in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the opening moments of a new reality show, a pretty blonde pulls up to a gas station in her sporty Mustang. As she fills the tank, she catches the eye of a man across the station and smiles. Soon she drives away, waving to her admirer as she leaves.

Another Kardashian-style series? Not quite. Around her fueling and flirting, we also see the woman assembling a wheelchair, popping herself into it and then disassembling the chair before driving off.

The blonde is 28-year-old Tiphany Adams, one of the stars of "Push Girls," a Sundance Channel reality series premiering Monday that takes viewers into the lives of four beautiful wheelchair-bound women.

All paralyzed through injury or illness, Adams and her three best friends—Mia Schaikewitz, 33, Auti Angel, 42, and Angela Rockwood, 36—are shown navigating everyday challenges of all sizes, from putting on makeup to starting a family.

It's an unprecedented look at the lives of disabled women, catheters and all, and either a new high or new low for reality TV.

"As a community, we say we want to be treated like everyone else. Well, everyone else has a reality show," said Paul Tobin, president and chief executive of United Spinal Association, an advocacy organization for people with spinal cord injuries. "These aren't the `Mob Wives.' ... My belief is that `Push Girls' will help dispel preconceived notions by showing people living their lives and enjoying the same things as everyone else, just a little bit differently."

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, another spinal cord injury advocacy group, is promoting "Push Girls" and joining with Sundance Channel to raise funds for research. Reeve Foundation president and chief executive Peter Wilderotter called the show "a media milestone."

"It truly is reality and it's bringing home what it's like to live with a spinal cord injury," he said. "With these women's sense of style, sense of humor, and sense of who they are and what they're going through, the portrait is really important because I think most people don't really think about what life is like in a chair."

"Push Girls" star Angel never did. A professional hip-hop dancer who toured with artists such as N.W.A. and LL Cool J, Angel's spinal cord was snapped in a 1992 car accident. She was paralyzed from the waist down and has used a wheelchair ever since.

"Before my car accident, when I was an able-bodied person, I never met a person with a disability," she said. "So I would be in the same boat with the viewers, like wow, they can have kids? And they don't marry other people in wheelchairs?"

Angel allows the cameras to eavesdrop on her private conversations with her husband about having a baby, one of the show's ongoing story lines.

Producer Gay Rosenthal said she was inspired to make "Push Girls" after meeting Rockwood, a model and actress who became a quadriplegic after a 2001 car accident.

"I was really taken with her," the producer said. Then she met Rockwood's best friends and "it changed my life."

"This is why I do what I do," she said. "They're more able bodied than some able-bodied people. They're so inspirational."

And their message is universal: "You watch just their spirit and how nothing stops them and how they live life, and it makes you think, `I can get through my challenge, my obstacle and my adversity," said Rosenthal, also the executive producer of TLC's "Little People, Big World," a reality series about the everyday life of a family of little people.

Rosenthal maintains that the show doesn't exploit its subjects.

"Here's the thing: People are interested in how ("Little People" stars) Matt and Amy do things differently," she said. "Just like Tiphany pumping gas, it's really interesting to see and it's no big deal for her."

Schaikewitz said her paralysis at age 15 from a ruptured vessel in her spinal cord is "the best thing that ever happened to me, for reasons that I am able to open somebody's mind by doing an everyday normal activity.

"I don't even have to converse with somebody," she said. "They see me pumping gas and that changes their day. To me, that is a huge gift."

So is having the Sundance Channel and "Push Girls" to share her reality with others.

"When I was first paralyzed, I always had this mission to open people's minds and get us a little more accessible to people who don't know our world because it would erase some fears, and I always thought the best way to do that would be through mass media," she said. "This is totally not exploitative. It's educational, but in a fun way; not like a public service announcement and not like preaching."

The 14-episode series will follow the women as they work, swim, ski, date and relate with their families.

Sundance Channel jumped on the chance to work with "Push Girls," said general manager Sarah Barnett.

Judge Judy dishes out advice on her new website

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Judge Judy is doing more than holding court on TV. She's now dishing out advice online.

Judy Sheindlin said the goal of her new website is to share her ideas about life, create a forum to discuss a variety of issues and to "have a little fun."

She'll have her say on topics including romance, pre-nuptial agreements and child-rearing. On the matter of "roommates with benefits," for instance, Sheindlin advises, "Joint nothing; separate everything!"

She's also inviting people to submit their own stories, some of which will be posted on the site.

"Judge Judy," her top-rated daytime syndicated show, is in its 16th year.

Madonna kicks off world tour in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Pop music star Madonna treated tens of thousands of ecstatic fans in Israel to the inaugural show of her "MDNA" world tour on Thursday, performing in a country where she has long claimed a special bond.

The "Material Girl," a devotee of a form of Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah, danced, bumped, grinded and vogued in flashy costumes to a raucous crowd at Ramat Gan stadium near Tel Aviv.

Madonna emerged on stage in a confessional, breaking through its glass window using a rifle, which she then aimed at the audience. She wore a skintight black outfit to sing her first song, "Girl Gone Wild," accompanied by dancers dressed as monks.

She went on to sing "Give Me All Your Luvin'" and a mash-up of the classic "Express Yourself" and Lady Gaga's "Born This Way," dressed as a marching band conductor.

While some artists have opted to boycott Israel because of its policies toward Palestinians, the 53-year-old Madonna's ties to the Jewish state have only strengthened in the last few years.

She has made personal pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007 along with other Kabbalah devotees. She wrapped up her 2008-2009 "Sticky and Sweet" tour with two shows in the Holy Land, her first in 16 years.

Wife's obsession with being thin weighs on her husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Angie," and I have been happily married for 11 years and have two wonderful kids. Angie has been working out the past couple of years and has achieved impressive results. She looks great. I fully support her in this and she knows it.

The problem is she's consumed by an insatiable hunger to be thin, although she is already very much in shape. She talks nonstop about new diets and ideas for losing weight, even though I constantly compliment her. Why does she keep insisting that she needs to diet?

ALARMED HUSBAND

DEAR ALARMED: Your wife doesn't see herself the way you do. She does not accept that she has achieved her goal and regards herself as still a work in progress. This may be because she has low self-esteem, or she may have a condition called "body dysmorphia," in which a person can't stop thinking about a perceived flaw in his or her appearance.

The person she should be talking to about her weight issues is her physician. I recommend you suggest it to her to be sure her preoccupation isn't an unhealthy one.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school senior. My boyfriend has asked me to marry him and I said yes. I don't know if I may have said it too quickly or if I should have waited. My family keeps asking me if I'm "sure." Well, I want to be with him, but I don't know about marriage.

Please help me. I don't want to make a big mistake.

CONFUSED TEEN IN SELMA, ALA.

DEAR CONFUSED: If you are unsure if you want to be married, you agreed too quickly. What you need to do is take a little time to decide what you want to do with your future.

Before marrying, it would be wise to consider completing your education so you will be better able to contribute financially to your marriage partnership. If you do, you will need to focus on your studies for the next few years. If not, you should still postpone marriage until you have lived apart from your family long enough to establish emotional and financial independence.

Your family keeps asking if you're "sure" because they are concerned that you have made too hasty a decision. The dreams you have at 18 may change by the time you are 23. Until you are 100 percent sure you are doing the right thing, do not set a wedding date.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My estranged niece's high school graduation is coming up, and her father (my brother) has invited me to attend. He says she wants all her aunts (including me) to be there.

I'm not sure I should go because she kicked us out of her life years ago when she went to live with her mom after her parents separated. She said many hurtful things to her mom about us at the time and said she wanted us out of her life. Please advise me.

TAKEN ABACK IN SANTA ANA, CALIF.

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: It strikes me as strange that the woman your brother was divorcing would repeat the uncomplimentary things her daughter (may have) said about family members—unless it was an attempt at parental alienation.

I hope you won't let something your niece might have said years ago, while under the emotional strain of her parents' separation, keep you from attending the graduation. She has most likely matured since then and would like to mend fences. Remember that when you see this girl, and treat her warmly and see what happens.

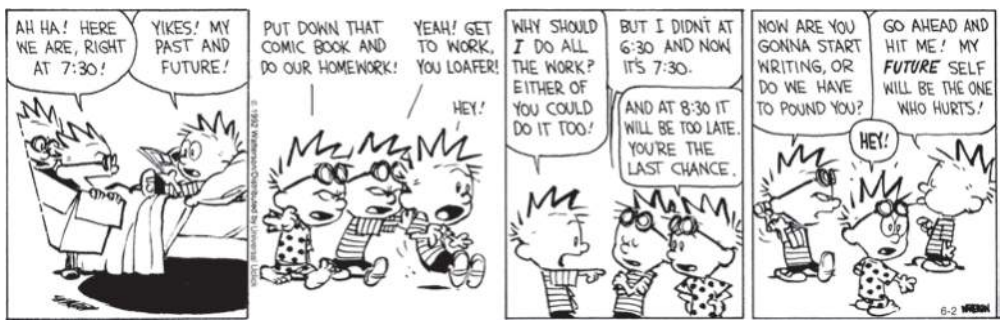
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AH HA! HERE WE ARE, RIGHT AT 7:30!
YIKES! MY PAST AND FUTURE!
PUT DOWN THAT COMIC BOOK AND DO OUR HOMEWORK!
YEAH! GET TO WORK, YOU LOAFER!
HEY!
WHY SHOULD I DO ALL THE WORK? EITHER OF YOU COULD DO IT TOO!
BUT I DIDN'T AT 6:30 AND NOW IT'S 7:30.
AND AT 8:30 IT WILL BE TOO LATE. YOU'RE THE LAST CHANCE.
NOW ARE YOU GONNA START WRITING, OR DO WE HAVE TO POUND YOU?
GO AHEAD AND HIT ME! MY FUTURE SELF WILL BE THE ONE WHO HURTS!
HEY!
6-2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AH, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND." A TIMELESS CLASSIC
THAT SHOULD KEEP THE TABLE FROM WOBBLING
JIM DAVIS 6-2
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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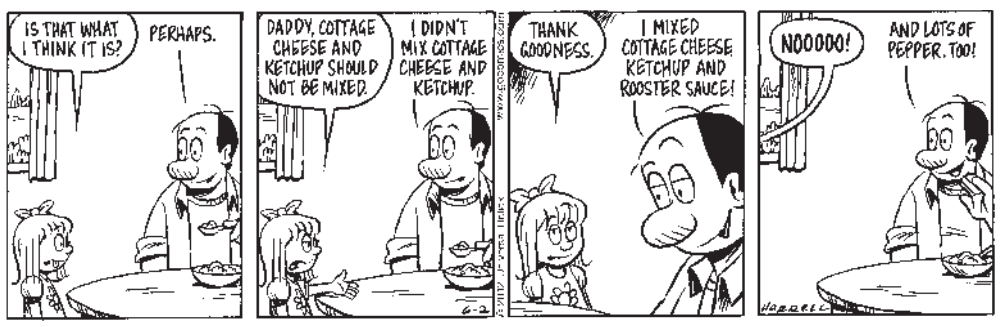
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
PERHAPS.
DADDY, COTTAGE CHEESE AND KETCHUP SHOULD NOT BE MIXED.
I DIDN'T MIX COTTAGE CHEESE AND KETCHUP.
THANK GOODNESS.
I MIXED COTTAGE CHEESE KETCHUP AND ROOSTER SAUCE!
NOOOOO!
AND LOTS OF PEPPER, TOO!
6-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Trip to Mecca
5 Inauguration recitation
9 Vacillate
12 Birthright barterer
13 100 percent
14 Have a bug
15 Flowerless plant
16 Blueprint
17 Altar affirmative
18 London gallery
19 Peculiar
20 Leftovers recipe
21 IV measures
23 Ram's fan?
25 Esprit de corps
28 Automaker's nightmare
32 Accustom
33 Recipient
34 GI ID
36 Set off
37 Baseball stat.
38 Homer's neighbor
39 Source of Samson's strength
42 Scepter
44 Thin streak of smoke
48 Vacationing
49 Michigan, e.g.
50 Between jobs
51 Lummox
52 Shrek is one
53 Spruced up
54 Saute
55 Abacus piece
56 Spreadsheet fill

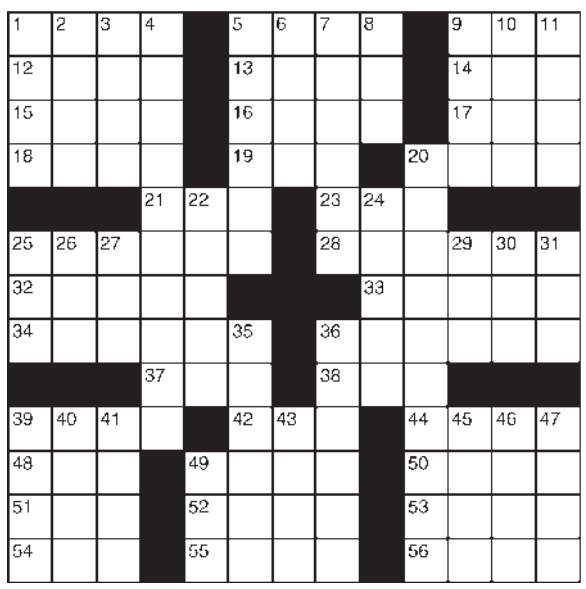
DOWN

1 Weight
2 Cruising
3 Pub missile
4 Mrs. Johnny Cash
5 Go against
6 "— Lang Syne"
7 Merchant
8 Coop dweller
9 Bide one's time
10 Staffer
11 Candlelight, e.g.
20 Renewed energy
22 Transparent
24 Shoe style
25 Central
26 Yoko of music
27 Bad hairpiece
29 Blackbird
30 Allow
31 Sheltered side
35 Parking space?
36 "Absolutely!"
39 Horse's foot
40 Somewhere out there
41 Uncertain
43 Gumbo item
45 Concept
46 Venetian blind part
47 Animal-rights org.
49 High-arc shot

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	I	C	■	B	A	T	H	■	P	U	M	A
D	O	R	■	O	L	E	O	■	A	T	O	P
Q	U	E	E	N	B	E	E	■	R	A	V	E
■	■	D	R	E	A	■	■	U	S	H	E	R
I	L	I	A	D	■	A	B	L	E	■	■	■
R	U	B	S	■	Q	U	E	N	C	H	E	D
A	L	L	■	S	U	T	R	A	■	E	R	E
Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	■	D	A	N	A
■	■	■	T	A	P	S	■	L	A	D	E	N
H	A	R	R	Y	■	■	D	I	V	A	■	■
A	C	A	I	■	Q	U	F	B	F	C	Г	R
Z	I	N	C	■	F	S	P	Y	■	H	Г	Y
Г	D	I	T	■	D	A	T	A	■	F	K	F

Yesterday's answer 6-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Long, 34; Zachary Quinto, 35; Wayne Brady, 40; Dennis Haysbert, 58.

Happy Birthday: A creative approach to earning extra income will pay off. Consider your skills and what you enjoy doing most, and you'll find a way to advance in an area you haven't tapped before. Someone who shared your interest in the past will be able to add to your plans for the future. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 27, 30, 37, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take note of what everyone else is up to and show a little interest; it will improve your relationships and help you make a decision regarding someone from your past. Don't hesitate to touch base with someone you miss. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will surface when dealing with partners. You are best to keep everything out in the open so you aren't blamed or accused of not revealing the whole truth. Do whatever it takes to clear up matters quickly, before they have time to fester. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Putting in extra hours will help you meet your living expense. Someone is likely to disagree with what you are doing or whom you are spending time with. Keep a low profile and reveal as little as possible about your activity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Have a little fun. Enjoy friends, family and creative activities that allow you to use your unique talents. Don't get pressured into gossiping or revealing secret information that might lead to a squabble with someone you care about. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get out and offer your assistance wherever it is needed, and you will feel you have accomplished something worthwhile. Don't let a petty incident lead to an emotional reaction that can cause problems at home. Keep busy helping others. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be careful what you say and to whom. A problem you are having with someone will be divulged, causing anxiety and anger. Avoid an altercation by offering a solution. Put time and effort into a hobby, and you may avoid trouble. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll dazzle everyone with your intelligence and great suggestions. Getting into a social setting will allow you to show off your talents and attract interest in something you have to offer. Love is highlighted, so plan a romantic evening. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Impulse spending or taking on something physically taxing must be avoided. Focus more on your relationships with others and how you can make your space at home more conducive to your creative plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll get plenty of help, but don't be surprised if there is a price to pay. Don't be lazy. Do your own work and avoid having to deal with added pressure or feeling indebted to someone. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can learn from someone who has experience you lack. Watch, listen and see what valuable information or ideas you can pick up and apply to your own life. A change of lifestyle may be necessary to reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let emotional situations escalate. Focus on home, family and your own personal money matters. You can get ahead if you volunteer your time to an organization to which you have something to contribute. Love is highlighted. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Find creative ways to stretch your money. Your insight into future trends will help you come up with a plan that can offset your lack of funds. Don't let anyone discourage you from doing your own thing. Avoid conflicts. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, determined and unique. You are strong-willed and persuasive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9			2			
		1				8		
	6		3				4	1
6				8		9		
			4	2	5			
		3		6				8
3	5				7		2	
		8				4		
			5			6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	9	4	7	1	8	5	3
1	4	5	3	8	9	7	2	6
3	8	7	6	5	2	9	1	4
7	5	3	1	4	8	2	6	9
2	9	8	5	6	7	3	4	1
4	1	6	2	9	3	5	7	8
9	6	4	7	3	5	1	8	2
5	3	1	8	2	4	6	9	7
8	7	2	9	1	6	4	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TOMORROW IS TATTOO DAY **Solution: 7 letters**

D	P	M	L	S	U	O	I	G	I	L	E	R	A	C
R	E	E	A	A	S	K	F	S	Y	M	B	O	L	S
A	R	M	X	C	Ⓝ	Ⓔ	Ⓒ	Ⓚ	D	H	C	O	L	D
W	M	O	O	H	H	O	R	A	O	Y	H	R	O	R
I	A	R	O	N	I	I	I	P	B	G	A	I	O	O
N	N	I	T	E	S	B	N	T	X	I	R	N	C	W
G	E	A	T	E	D	T	I	E	A	E	I	I	I	I
T	N	L	A	D	E	T	R	T	Y	N	T	T	S	N
S	T	H	T	L	S	M	R	A	I	E	Y	I	U	J
I	E	A	I	E	I	A	L	A	T	O	N	A	M	E
R	S	N	S	N	G	I	S	A	I	I	N	L	I	C
W	E	D	S	E	N	I	P	S	E	N	O	S	X	T
S	Y	S	U	S	E	M	I	N	A	R	I	N	I	I
R	D	M	E	V	I	L	A	U	N	N	A	N	N	O
S	T	O	D	E	T	N	I	A	P	L	A	N	G	N

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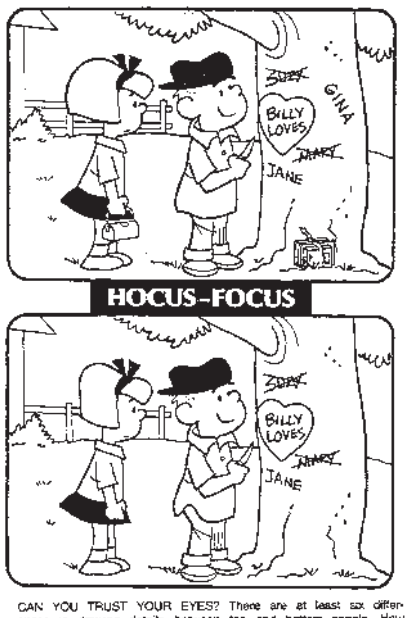
Annual, Area, Arms, Back, Body, Care, Charity, Cool, Demonstration, Design, Dots, Drawing, Dyes, Exhibitions, Express, Hands, Hygiene, Initials, Injection, Layer, Lines, Live, Machine, Memorial, Mixing, Music, Name, National, Neck, Needle, Painted, Permanent, Plan, Religious, Seminar, Signs, Spine, Symbols, Tattoo, Tissue, Training, Words, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: Southern

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Wishing Well®

4	8	3	6	4	6	8	7	6	2	5	8	5
W	T	L	A	R	N	H	H	E	V	A	I	H
7	4	6	2	3	8	2	6	2	3	5	4	5
A	A	W	A	A	N	L	P	U	S	E	P	A
8	2	8	7	5	4	5	8	2	6	8	2	5
K	E	B	P	V	U	Y	E	Q	R	F	U	W
7	4	7	3	5	8	6	8	6	8	6	2	4
P	P	Y	T	O	O	I	R	Z	E	E	I	L
8	3	5	7	8	3	8	3	2	5	8	4	8
Y	I	R	T	O	N	U	G	E	K	A	O	C
4	8	7	4	2	3	7	2	5	4	5	2	4
O	T	I	S	T	L	M	T	L	E	O	I	E
7	4	2	3	2	4	2	7	3	4	5	3	5
E	N	M	O	E	D	S	S	V	S	A	E	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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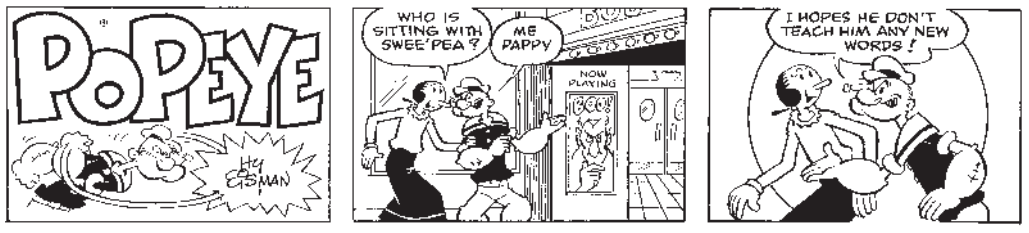
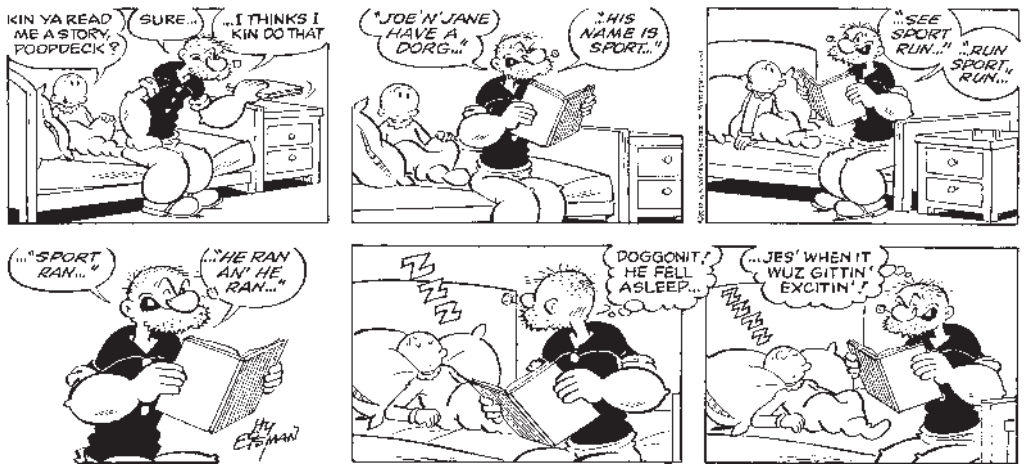
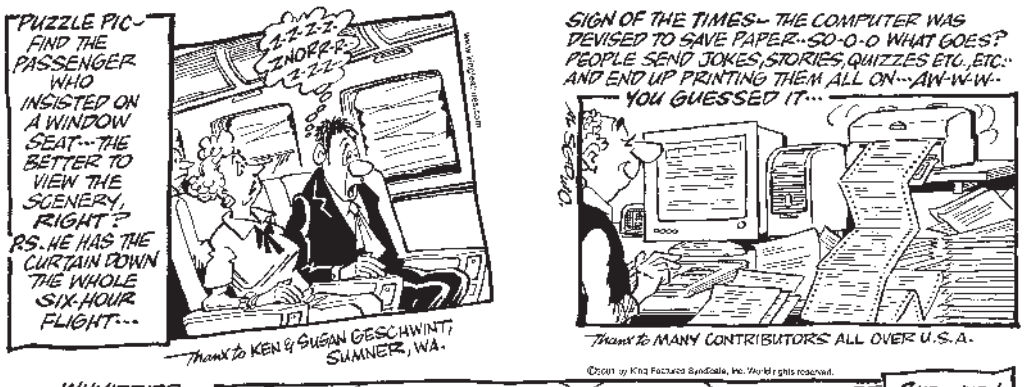




They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


PUZZLE PIC- FIND THE PASSENGER WHO INSISTED ON A WINDOW SEAT--THE BETTER TO VIEW THE SCENERY, RIGHT? PS. HE HAS THE CURTAIN DOWN THE WHOLE SIX-HOUR FLIGHT...
Z-Z-Z-Z-Z
SNORR-R-R-
Z-Z-Z-Z-
Thanx to KEN & SUSAN GESCHWINT, SUMNER, WA.
SIGN OF THE TIMES- THE COMPUTER WAS DEVISED TO SAVE PAPER--SO-O-O WHAT GOES? PEOPLE SEND JOKES, STORIES, QUIZZES ETC., ETC.- AND END UP PRINTING THEM ALL ON--AW-W-W-
YOU GUESSED IT...
Thanx to MANY CONTRIBUTORS ALL OVER U.S.A.

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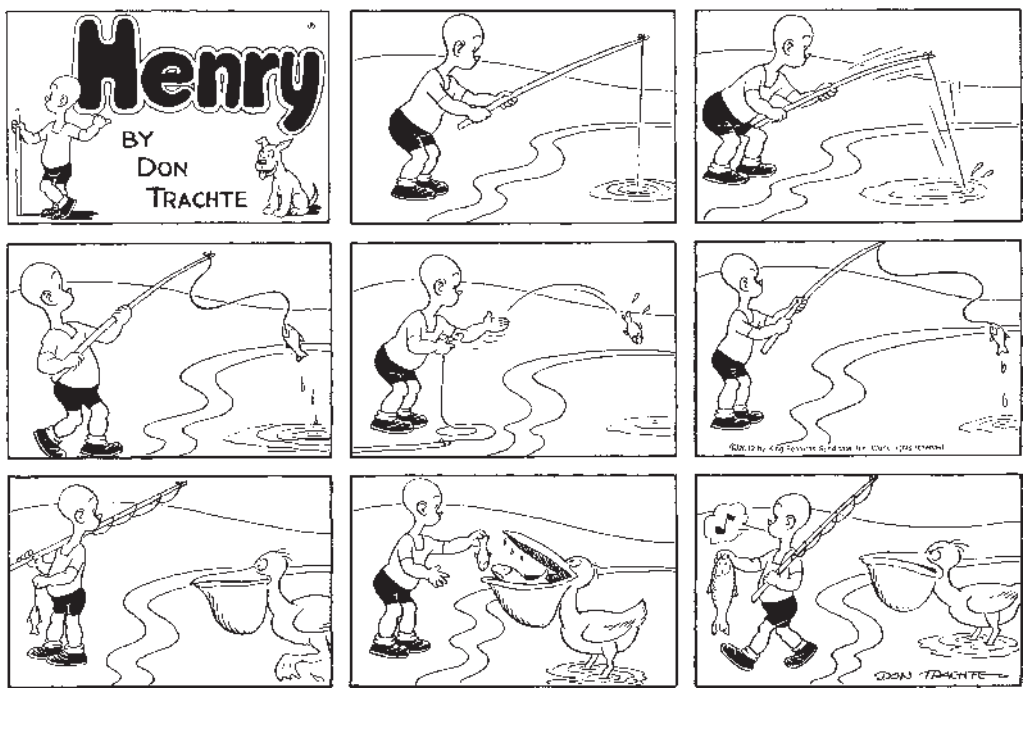
WHYIZZIT? DOC EPSOM WILL NOT TAKE YOUR PHONE CALL WHEN HE'S WITH PATIENTS. HE MUST GIVE THEM HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, SEZ HE---
Thanx to SIMI SIEGEL, ORMOND BEACH, FL.
HEH-HEH--SEE YOU AT THE CLUB TONIGHT, HERB--HA-HA-HA--
HEY, ARFO- CAN Y'STEP IN HERE A MINUTE?
BRRING
BUT-WHEN YOU'RE IN HIS EXAM ROOM, THEN YOUR TIME IS EVERY-BODY ELSES- OH, YEAH!

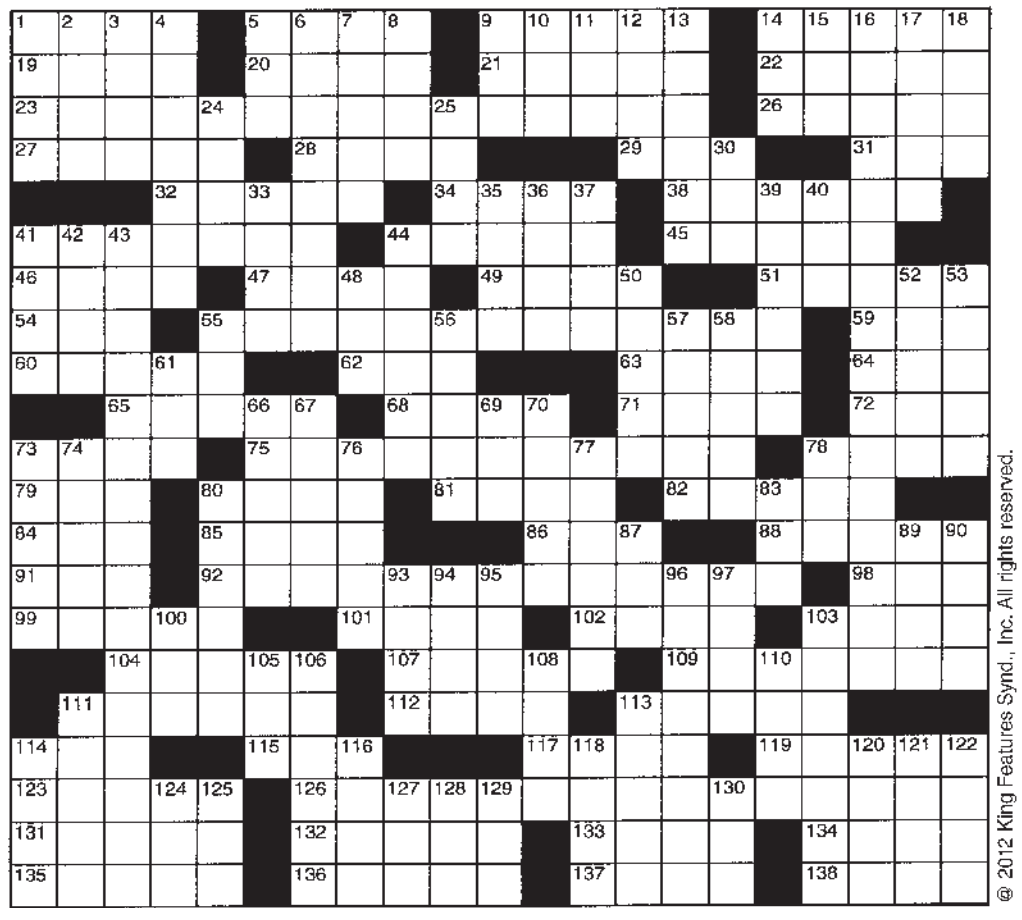


Super Crossword

BY ANY OTHER NAME

ACROSS
1 Bert of "Rose Marie"
5 Decorate glass
9 Tight
14 Oven feature
19 Hodge-podge
20 "Star Trek" navigator
21 Really big star?
22 Florida city
23 Legendary drummer?
26 Boxer Roberto
27 Alpha opposite
28 Use the microwave
29 — Pan Alley
31 Cable channel
32 Vote in
34 Use a dagger
38 Shadowy site?
41 "La Traviata" tenor
44 Musty
45 Family car
46 Dutch painter
47 Spine start
49 Fountain order
51 Shoe measurement
54 "Xanadu" rockers
55 Revolutionary War hero?
59 Nest egg
60 Madame Curie
62 Gelid
63 Rock's — Maiden
64 Word form for "center"
65 Wrapped up
68 Gymnast Korbut
71 Overdo a tan
72 Caravansary
73 Safe place?
75 Syndicated film critic?
78 Tizzy
79 Circle section
80 Paella ingredient
81 Wordy Webster
82 Actor Reeves
84 Sprawl on the sofa
85 Computer image
86 "Winter of Artifice" author
88 Terra —
91 Aspin or Paul
92 "It's Too Late" singer?
98 Letters of credit?
99 Move through mud
101 Part of NB
102 Literary contraction
103 A real Swede guy
104 Nick of "Cannery Row"
107 "The — Man" ('72 song)
109 Most laconic
111 Vietnam's — Van Thieu
112 Painter Paul
113 Baker's appliance
114 Taradiddle
115 Fall behind
117 Coup d'—
119 Gary of "The Buddy Holly Story"
123 City on the Mohawk
126 "I Dream of Jeannie" star?
131 Flynn of films
132 Psychedelic Timothy
133 Poorly
134 Sundance's sweetie
135 Stick
136 Violinist Mischa
137 — majesty
138 Groucho's gaze

DOWN
1 Timber wolf
2 Grad
3 Lie low
4 Hammerstein's partner
5 Seer's gift
6 Arnold or Brutus
7 Influence
8 Clean your ears?
9 Alphabet sequence
10 "Ben- —"
11 Funnyman Philips
12 Be adjacent to
13 Pocket flowers?
14 Director Browning
15 Hosp. area
16 "Captain Ron" star?
17 Serengeti springer
18 Be bombastic
24 81 Across' alma mater
25 Gnat or brat
30 Comic Louis
33 — St. Vincent Millay
35 Rpm indicator
36 South African plant
37 Composer Bartok
39 "The Perfect Fool" comic
40 Chou En- —
41 "Excuse me"
42 Tra- —
43 Famous nurse?
44 Manatee or dugong
48 Sweater letter
50 Cover story?
52 Singer Lopez
53 Common contraction
55 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
56 Synthetic fabric
57 Jack's place
58 Mob
61 Squid's squirt
66 Author Jong
67 Furnishings
69 Moo — gai pan
70 Hersey town
73 "Great — of Fire" ('58 hit)
74 Sharon of Israel
76 Vacuum-tube gas
77 Say neigh
78 — -Cat (winter wheels)
80 In full measure
83 Rhine whine
87 Angus' uh-uh
89 Stocking stuffers?
90 Cousin's mom
93 Canal feature
94 And more of the same
95 Lion's pride
96 Solo peformances
97 Essence
100 Old French coin
103 Potsdam pastry
105 — Aviv
106 Make feasible
108 Graceful ruminant
110 Melodious McEntire
111 Safe-cracker's tool
113 Syrup source
114 Feed a fire
116 Celt
118 Sheep's shaker
120 Location
121 Punta del —
122 1492 or 1776
124 Machine part
125 Kensington quaff
127 Pound a portcullis
128 Undergarment
129 Writer Rand
130 Deli loaf



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the name of Tonto's horse in the series "The Lone Ranger"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the country of origin for the pop group The Bay City Rollers?
3. COMICS: In the "Archie Comics," Archie Andrews has a hard time choosing between two young ladies. What are their names?
4. INVENTIONS: What did Leonard A. Fish and Robert P. Cox patent in 1972 that was described as a "foamable resinous composition" that was propelled from a can?
5. LITERATURE: What futuristic novel's first line reads, "It was a pleasure to burn"?
6. MUSIC: What kind of instrument does musician Chuck Mangione play?
7. MOVIES: What was Ron's patronus in the "Harry Potter" movie series?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Farfalle is a type of what food?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What is the second largest of the Hawaiian Islands?
10. HISTORY: What was the code name of Hitler's planned invasion of England?

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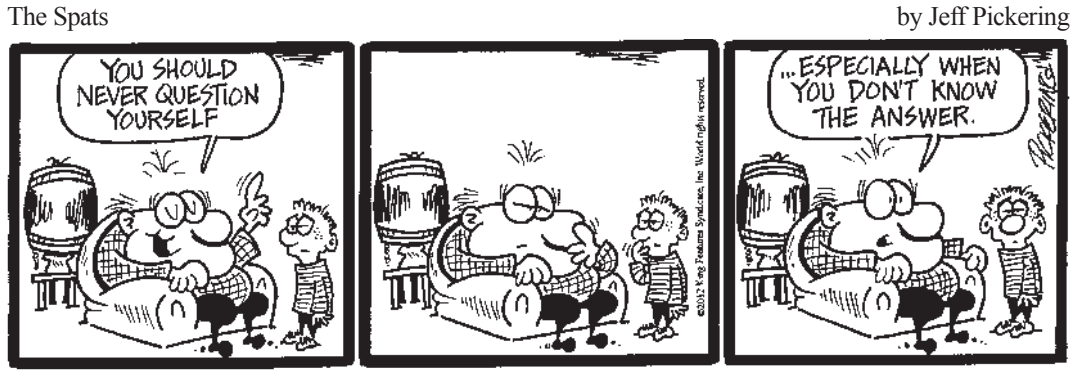
Answers
1. Scout
2. Scotland
3. Betty and Veronica
4. Silly String
5. "Fahrenheit 451"
6. Flugelhorn
7. A Jack Russell terrier
8. Pasta
9. Maui
10. Operation Sea Lion

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering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...ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER.
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AMELITO Q. PAGARAO Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0060
vs.	)	
Emma Valles Pagarao Respondent	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500731 CK Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

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Thunder wallops Spurs 82, pulls within 2-1

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The streak is over. The series may only be beginning.

Kevin Durant scored 22 points, Thabo Sefolosha set playoff career-bests with 19 points and six steals, and the Oklahoma City Thunder snapped San Antonio's 20-game winning streak by beating the Spurs 102-82 in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals on Thursday night.

Oklahoma City closed its series deficit to 2-1 and will host Game 4 on Saturday night.

"We never thought these guys had an advantage over us even though we had lost a few," Durant said. "It was just good that we took it to 2-1. We didn't want to go down 0-3."

Sefolosha threw a wrench in the Spurs' well-oiled offense at the start, getting four steals in the first 3 minutes. The Spurs ended up committing a postseason-worst 21 turnovers and scoring their least points all season.

San Antonio had been averaging 109.4 points during its month-and-a-half winning streak and had been held to double digits only twice.

"We just played a good basketball game," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "We played with a lot of force, we played with good energy, but we played defensive-minded basketball.

"That's who we are. That's how we win."

Tony Parker and Stephen Jackson led the Spurs with 16 points apiece. Tim Duncan had 11 points on 5-for-15 shooting, taking 11 of San Antonio's first 25 shots as the offense went through the All-Star center instead of Parker.

"They played like it was a closeout game, both offensively and defensively," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "They were very active, physical, they moved the ball well on offense. They did all those things better than we did. They beat us good."

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder shooting guard Thabo Sefolosha (2), of Switzerland, and Kevin Durant (35) high-five during play against the San Antonio Spurs in the second half of Game 3 in their NBA basketball Western Conference finals playoff series, Thursday, May 31, 2012, in Oklahoma City.

The Spurs, who already set an NBA record for the longest winning streak carried over from the regular season into the playoffs, were trying to match the league mark for most wins to start the postseason. The Lakers won 11 straight to start the 1989 and 2001 playoffs, getting swept in the NBA finals the first time and winning it all the second.

The Spurs hadn't lost since April 11 against the Lakers at home.

"We are a prideful team. It's no fun being down 0-2. It's no fun," Brooks said. "But we weren't looking at the game thinking, `Oh my gosh, we have a chance to be down 0-3.' We were looking at the game that we have a chance to be 1-2 after this game, and I give our guys a lot of credit. They believe in each other and they always play hard for each other."

Parker and Duncan didn't play in the final 15 minutes, and Popovich pulled the plug after a series of three straight turnovers allowed the deficit to reach 23 points early in the fourth quarter.

Sefolosha had a right-handed dunk off a lob pass from Russell Westbrook, who followed with his own two-handed jam on an alley-oop pass and Sefolosha followed with a reverse layup on another turnover-fueled fast-break chance to push the lead to 86-63 with 9:48 left.

The Thunder put together another 9-0 run coinciding with Manu Ginobili coming out of the game, and featuring Serge Ibaka sticking his tongue out after nailing a jumper from the top of the key. Brooks soon followed suit and pulled his own front-line players with the game well in hand.

"You're not going to beat this team by playing one-effort basketball," Brooks said. "You're going to have to have two, three, four, even five. And they make you do that because they pass the ball so well, they spread the floor so well."

Popovich said the Thunder played harder and smarter than the Spurs.

"They did definitely play with a lot more energy, a lot more passion than us tonight," said Parker, who committed five turnovers.

The Spurs wiped out a 24-point deficit in Game 3 against the Clippers in Los Angeles in the last round, but they weren't recovering in this one.

San Antonio managed only 24 points in the paint after averaging 46 through the first two games of the series and 47.8 through the playoffs.

Oklahoma City already held a 28-8 scoring edge in the paint while taking a 54-41 halftime lead and it never got better for San Antonio, which couldn't get any closer than 11 points in the second half.

"We wanted to bounce back after two losses like that. We had to play better and we did that tonight," Sefolosha said. "We played with energy, we played with passion in front of our home crowd. They did a great job giving us a lift."

The Thunder scored the game's first eight points, feeding off Sefolosha's steals, but San Antonio recovered in time to take the lead with more than 5 minutes left in the opening period.

Oklahoma City took the lead early in the second quarter and there was no looking back.

Sefolosha set up Ibaka's two-handed dunk and hit a 3-pointer during a 13-1 run, with San Antonio's only point coming on a free throw by Ginobili after Durant was called for a technical foul while arguing a call from the bench.

Oklahoma City's lead ballooned to 15 when Kendrick Perkins grabbed Westbrook's airball and dunked it with two hands.

Stallings leads Memorial; McIlroy recovers

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Erik Compton considers the Memorial a special week no matter how he plays, knowing his second heart transplant came from a donor in Ohio.

The opening round was even sweeter with three birdies on the back nine late Thursday afternoon at Muirfield Village for a 5-under 67, leaving him one-shot out of the lead after a day that featured a timely rally by Rory McIlroy and a surprising departure by Phil Mickelson.

When the day ended, Scott Stallings was atop the leaderboard with a 66 and hardly anyone noticed.

Compton has been an amazing story as long as he has played golf. He had his first heart transplant at 12, played in the Walker Cup after a solid career at Georgia, nearly died from a heart attack on his way home from the golf course in 2007, had a second transplant in May 2008, and earned his PGA Tour card for the first time last year through the Nationwide Tour.

"It's just a great story, obviously, and it's a great place—for me, it's a special place," Compton said. "For me, there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about my donor. To be able to play here, regardless of whether I play good or bad, it's just always a nice week."

It could have been another bad week for McIlroy.

Coming off back-to-back missed cuts that cost him his No. 1 ranking and ramped up the scrutiny, McIlroy took a quadruple bogey on his third hole of the tournament when he went from the bunker to the water, back over the pond to the drop area on a forward tee, and then into another bunker. He blasted onto the green and took two putts for a 7, and there were murmurs from the crowd to see him at 4-over par so early.

The next 15 holes were much better, and he rallied for a 71.

"It wasn't the start I wanted to get off to, being 4 over through three holes, especially after the last few weeks," McIlroy said. "I was just like, 'Here we go again.' But I hung in there well, and proud of myself for the way I just fought back. To finish the round under par, I thought was a really good effort."

Tiger Woods, playing in the group behind him, chopped up the 18th hole for a double bogey and still managed a 2-under 70.

"I didn't do anything great and I didn't do anything poorly," Woods said. "I was just very consistent. And I think with the golf course being the way it's set up, you just have to be that way. ... Over the next three days, hopefully I can play as well as I did today."

Mickelson wasn't anywhere near those scores, and when his round ended, he was nowhere near the golf course. Mickelson walked out of the scoring hut after signing for a 79—his worst score ever at the Memorial—and said he was withdrawing because of mental fatigue.

He said playing three straight weeks, followed by a trip to Europe for his wife's 40th birthday, took too much out of him and he needed extra rest with the U.S. Open only two weeks away. Mickelson was among four players who withdrew after a 79 or worse, though none of the others are four-time major champions who were inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"I feel like it's the responsibility of a player to see through your commitment and finish the tournament and so forth," Mickelson said. "And I'm kind of overruling that just a touch, because I'm trying to think big picture on what's the best way for me to get ready for the Open."

The bigger picture might have been the fans in the gallery using their cellphones for photos of Mickelson, Masters champion Bubba Watson and Rickie Fowler. Mickelson has a peculiar way of sending a message, though he danced around a question of whether distractions played a role. He said only he struggled to focus from a busy month.

Watson and Fowler painted a different picture.

"It took Phil out of his game," Watson said.

Fowler, a little more diplomatic, said the players had to restart their pre-shot routines because of the phone cameras.

"You could see Phil was a little fatigued and was having trouble blocking it out a bit," Fowler said.

Muirfield Village was enough to get anyone's attention, even those who had hardly anyone watching them. The first round was played under bright sunshine most of the day, and the course was as fast as it has been in years. Only four players managed to break 70 from the morning wave. Later in the afternoon, as the breeze subsided and some cloud cover arrived, Stallings, Compton and Spencer Levin made a surge.

Stallings had nine one-putt greens and chipped in for eagle on the par-5 seventh. Levin holed a 25-foot eagle on the seventh hole and made birdie on the eighth until dropping a shot on his final hole to join Compton at 67.

Defending champion Steve Stricker bogeyed his last three holes for a 73. Luke Donald, back to No. 1 after winning at Wentworth, felt like he shot much higher. Thanks to his superb short game, particularly three putts to save par from bunkers, he managed a 71.

McIlroy hit three balls in the water on his front nine, though he saved par on one of them. His putter saved him. The 23-year-old from Northern Ireland twice made 8-foot par putts, avoid a three-putt on the 18th with a 6-foot par putt and sprinkled in enough birdies to stay in the game.

The turning point came at the par-5 fifth, when he hooked his tee shot for the gallery. He cursed through clenched teeth, and holding his driver behind him, whacked himself in the back with the grip a couple of times. From the left rough, he played an aggressive fairway metal, low and hot and dead straight, avoiding the water down the left side of the fairway. The ball came up about 15 yards short of the green, and he pitched in for eagle.

"I see enough good shots out there to give me encouragement," McIlroy said, one eye toward his title defense in the U.S. Open in two weeks. "There's still a few that I don't like, but as long as the good ones are in there, then you see the positives."

Marathon Man Isner loses 18-16 in 5th at French

PARIS (AP)—This, then, is who John Isner is for now: The Marathon Man of Tennis, the guy who plays and plays and plays, for hours on end, until the last set seems interminable.

At Wimbledon two years ago, he won 70-68 in the fifth, the longest set and match in tennis history. At Roland Garros on Thursday, as afternoon gave way to evening, the 10th-seeded American lost 7-6 (2), 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 18-16 to Paul-Henri Mathieu of France in the second round, a 5-hour, 41-minute test of stamina and attention span.

This one goes in the books as the second-longest match, by time, in French Open history.

"I just didn't get it done. I felt like I got caught in patterns that weren't ideal for me," said a somber Isner, whose exit means there are no U.S. men in the third round for the first time since 2007. "I wasn't going for my shots at certain points in the match, and that comes from a little bit of a lack of confidence."

If the 6-foot-9 Isner, who led Georgia to an NCAA title, is going to become more than a novelty act, he needs to win encounters like Thursday's, and not because of the duration but because it was a first-week Grand Slam match against a player ranked 261st who got into the field thanks to a wild-card invitation from the tournament.

After finally converting his seventh match point—Isner never had one—an emotional Mathieu thanked the partisan crowd in the main stadium for willing him to victory. Their sing-song choruses of "Po-lo! Po-lo!"—the French equivalent of "Paulie"—and roars of approval rang out after pretty much every point he won down the stretch.

"I dug deep," said the 30-year-old Mathieu, who hadn't played in a major tournament since the 2010 U.S. Open because of a left knee injury that forced him off tour all of last year. "I was away from the courts for quite a while, and I came back to live moments like this."

He helped provide easily the most intrigue on a day that featured straight-set wins for defending champions Rafael Nadal and Li Na. But it also ended after 9 p.m., forcing organizers to postpone until Friday the match involving Maria Sharapova that was supposed to follow on Court Philippe Chatrier.

About 10 hours earlier in that stadium, it appeared a man seeded even higher than Isner would be on his way out of the tournament: No. 4 Andy Murray's back was so painful he could barely move, let alone play tennis at the level required to win a Grand Slam match.

Or so it seemed.

For the better part of an hour, the three-time major finalist looked downright miserable. He grimaced. He clutched at the small of his back. He contorted his body. He stepped gingerly, as though barefoot on a hot day at the beach. He tapped in serves at speeds so slow they'd be OK while driving on a highway. He considered quitting.

"Just kind of gritting my teeth," Murray said, "and (trying) to find a way of turning the match around, because I was a few points, probably, from stopping."

And then, thanks in large part to a couple of massages from a trainer, Murray began to feel better. It helped, too, that his opponent, 48th-ranked Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, was incapable of taking advantage of Murray's nearly incapacitated state. So Murray managed to come back to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 and reach the third round at Roland Garros for the fifth consecutive year.

What's unclear, even to Murray, is how his back will be for his next match.

"I have no idea what will happen in two days," said Murray, a semifinalist at each of the last five Grand Slam tournaments. "But if it's something like a spasm, it's not like you're doing major damage. You know, it's just a really, really tight muscle."

AP

Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, right, is hugged by John Isner of the U.S. after Mathieu won the second round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday May 31, 2012.

The 25-year-old from Scotland, being coached this season by eight-time major champion Ivan Lendl, had been dealing with a bad back for months. It forced him to pull out of the Madrid Open in early May. But Murray insisted that Thursday's problem was different - although might have been related, because he might have bothered a muscle by compensating for the earlier injury.

"It was his fault for letting me back into the match, because I didn't do anything special," Murray said. "I just tried to put some balls back in."

Nieminen agreed, saying: "I feel like I had him. ... It's not often that somebody looks that bad and can keep going."

But Murray did trudge on, putting in serves at 70 mph or so, and taking big cuts at returns to try to end points then and there, until he could swing more freely.

Isner, meanwhile, topped 130 mph regularly, pounded 41 aces and only double-faulted once against Mathieu, but never did enough on his returns, earning only four break points all match—the same formula that led to his monumental 11-hour, 5-minute victory over another Frenchman, Nicolas Mahut, in the first round at the All England Club in 2010.

"I served well," Isner said. "Just didn't do anything else that well."

The record-smashing, three-day ordeal against Mahut never entered Isner's mind Thursday, he insisted. Mathieu said that when he learned he'd be facing Isner, he sought advice from Mahut—and vowed to avenge his pal's tough loss.

From nearly the moment his match against Mahut was finally over, Isner has made clear he wants to be known for greater accomplishments, for deep runs at Grand Slam tournaments.

The next chance for that comes on Wimbledon's grass in June. For now, though, Isner wants to head to Florida and take a break.

"I'm going to go home," he said. "I don't even want to think about tennis right now."

Tigers pepper Beckett in 7-3 victory

BOSTON (AP)—Josh Beckett was just too hittable.

Beckett allowed a season-high 10 hits and four runs over seven innings, surrendering at least one hit to eight different Detroit batters, as the Tigers avoided a four-game sweep with a 7-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Thursday night.

It was the most hits Beckett (4-5) has permitted since giving up 11 in a 5-2 loss to the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 29, 2010.

"I made some pitches when I needed to and I didn't make some other ones," he said. "You're going to have five pitches in a game that you have to make, and I think I made three of them today. The other two it cost me three runs in one inning."

Boston's bats didn't exactly back its starter, either.

Mike Aviles' single to lead off the fourth was the last hit by the Red Sox, and only Nick Punto reached after that, walking in the seventh.

"A real competitive, battling outing. He gave us a chance to win the game. I don't know that that was his best stuff," Boston manager Bobby Valentine said of Beckett. "I thought we get a few runs right there in the seventh, the way we're swinging the bats, and he'd leave with a win and we'd have a good flight to Toronto."

Beckett walked one and struck out one, fanning Jhonny Peralta with one out in the sixth to extend his streak of striking out at least one batter to 289 games, the second longest stretch to begin a career and longest active streak in the majors.

Only Dwight Gooden had a longer run to start his career, going 349 games with at least one strikeout.

It was still much better than his first outing against Detroit this season.

The Tigers battered Beckett on April 7 at Detroit, hitting five home runs—two each by Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder - against the right-hander in a 10-0 win.

He has been solid lately, though, stringing together seven quality starts in his last eight outings, including his last three in which he allowed three runs over 21 2/3 innings.

That changed in a hurry Thursday.

The Tigers erased an early 2-0 deficit with a three-run third, including RBI singles from Quintin Berry and Fielder.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia tied it with a two-out RBI single in bottom half, but the Tigers grabbed the lead for good when Cabrera singled in Berry in the fifth.

Max Scherzer (5-3) retired nine consecutive batters before Punto led off the seventh with a walk, forcing the right-hander from the game. He allowed three runs and seven hits in his third consecutive victory, closing out a strong May.

"We just let him off the hook," Valentine said. "Heck, we had his pitch count up in the 80s after four innings. We were having good at bats, just we kind of let it slip away."

Delmon Young hit a solo drive in the eighth to make it 5-3, then added a run-scoring single in the ninth.

Saltalamacchia hit his 10th homer for Boston, which was seeking its first four-game sweep against the Tigers since 2004.

The Red Sox opened May with eight losses in nine games to drop to 12-19 on the year, but they closed the month on a 14-6 run to pull within three games of the division lead.

Young and Berry each had three hits for Detroit, which finished with 14 overall. Berry also scored two runs and stole two bases.

Detroit ended a brutal stretch of playing 19 of 24 games on the road, going 10-14 overall while dropping into third place.

Saltalamacchia connected in the second inning, and Scott Podsednik doubled in Ryan Sweeney to make it 2-0.

Fielder also tripled in Cabrera in the ninth.

The Tigers threatened to score in the second inning after Young singled and Alex Avila followed with a double, but Sweeney caught Peralta's fly ball to right and doubled up Young trying to score from third.

"I think I had the best seat in the house, backing up home," Beckett said. "You can kind of see the ball kind of tailing in there. It was really nice."

Rockies 11, Astros 5

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez homered again, and Michael Cuddyer and Jordan Pacheco had three hits each as the Colorado Rockies beat the Houston Astros.

Gonzalez, who homered in his last three at-bats Wednesday, hit a three-run shot in the first inning against Bud Norris. He was intentionally walked in the second, doubled in the fourth and singled in the eighth.

Gonzalez's 14th homer made him the first Rockies player to go deep in four consecutive at-bats. It was the 22nd time a major league player has homered in four consecutive plate appearances and the 38th time for four straight official at-bats.

The talented left fielder is 13 for 20 with six homers and 10 RBIs in his last five games.

Marco Scutaro also homered for the Rockies, who pounded out 15 hits while completing the four-game sweep. Colorado finished the series with 40 runs and 56 hits after scoring just 20 runs in its previous five home games.

Jeremy Guthrie (3-3) earned his first win since April 22.

J.D. Martinez homered for the Astros, who have lost six straight.

Brewers 6, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Aramis Ramirez and Carlos Gomez each hit a two-run homer and Zack Greinke pitched effectively for six innings as Milwaukee completed the four-game sweep of Los Angeles.

The Brewers played without NL MVP Ryan Braun, who was scratched because of tightness in his right Achilles tendon.

The Dodgers also played without their No. 3 hitter, Matt Kemp, and will be without the slugger for at least a month. The All-Star center fielder, who was runner-up to Braun in last year's MVP voting, was placed on the 15-day disabled list after re-injuring his left hamstring Wednesday night.

Greinke (7-2) allowed a run and nine hits in his Dodger Stadium debut, striking out seven and walking one.

Chad Billingsley (2-4) struck out eight in six innings for Los Angeles, but yielded four runs and six hits.

Semifinals set for Bud Light Cup tourneys

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	29	22	.569	–
Tampa Bay	29	22	.569	–
New York	27	23	.540	1 1/2
Toronto	27	24	.529	2
Boston	26	25	.510	3

Central Division

Chicago	29	22	.569	–
Cleveland	27	23	.540	1 1/2
Detroit	24	27	.471	5
Kansas City	21	28	.429	7
Minnesota	18	32	.360	10 1/2

West Division

Texas	31	20	.608	–
Los Angeles	26	26	.500	5 1/2
Seattle	23	30	.434	9
Oakland	22	29	.431	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	29	21	.580	–
Miami	29	22	.569	1/2
New York	28	23	.549	1 1/2
Atlanta	28	24	.538	2
Philadelphia	27	25	.519	3

Central Division

Cincinnati	28	22	.560	–
St. Louis	27	24	.529	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	25	25	.500	3
Milwaukee	23	28	.451	5 1/2
Houston	22	29	.431	6 1/2
Chicago	18	32	.360	10

West Division

Los Angeles	32	19	.627	–
San Francisco	27	24	.529	5
Arizona	23	28	.451	9
Colorado	21	29	.420	10 1/2
San Diego	17	35	.327	15 1/2

BY THE ASSOCAIED PRESS

LOVING

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night in Garapan at 6pm with B Division's NVM taking on Wanted Sponsor followed at 8pm by A Division's Star Water facing DLX.

Then tomorrow's matchups feature Hip-Hop Thunder against Cargo Express at 6pm followed by QQ Rent-A-Car clashing with Mobil at 8pm.

Blue Haus' newly revised schedule has moved the weekly game dates to Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at the Garapan court. There will still be double features set for these dates, however the game times have been moved up to 6pm and 8pm, accordingly.

Contact Dante Olivos at 989-6286 for more information.

On Wednesday, Loving Hands built an early 16-11 lead in the opening 10 minutes off 8 points by Bernard Aquino.

It then stretched it out to a 35-24 margin at halftime as Jun Tabora delivered six markers in support to go with another solid defensive performance.

Cargo Express then nailed a trio of 3 -pointers after the break to battle back to within a couple of possessions, 50-54, heading into the final canto, and the matchup ended up going all the way down to the final buzzer.

Bruce Berline put Cargo Express on his back for a dozen points at crunch time, but Loving Hands' Tabora and Sonny Lerio teamed up for 13 to go with a couple of long range shots from behind the arc, earning them the nod through regulation.

Cargo Express tried to foul late in the game to get an outside chance for an upset, but Loving Hands' Tabora and Lerio each drained a couple of clutch free throws to seal the deal.

In the end, it was 15 points by J.R. Barios that led Lovcame from Nelisa Brel.

Meanwhile, the winner of the MPU-Tan Holdings playoff tiff will challenge Shirley's in the semifinals, while the victor of the IFC-Matansa duel will take on Paire in the other Final Four pairing, next Saturday.

ing Hands, while Cargo Express' Berline topped the field with 16.

In Thursday's match, Saipan Hardware's Michael Palacios, Errol Peredo, and Tim Quan chipped in 4 points apiece for an early, 21-18, advantage after the first period, but Hip-Hop Thunder's Retmark Castro led a second quarter charge with 8 points that locked up the match at 37-all at intermission.

Saipan Hardware made a big stand on the defensive end in the third quarter as they trotted ahead, 59-48, heading into the last 10 minutes. Quan paced the group with 8 points in the period.

Hip-Hop Thunder tried to ignite another comeback in the payoff period, but Saipan Hardware's Peredo and Zack Babauta each buried a pair of late free throws that helped secure the win.

Peredo led the group with 17 points, while Hip-Hop Thunder's Ivan Devero turned in a game-high 21 in defeat.

THURSDAY

Saipan Hardware 75 – Peredo 17, Lauron 15, Quan 15, Palacios 8, Babauta 5, Tenorio 5, Babauta 3, Lansang 3, Park 2, Tenepere 2.

Hip-Hop Thunder 67 – I. Devero 21, Mateo 13, Castro 13, Libuw 9, C. Devero 4, Sacramento 4, Durant 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 37-37, 59-48, 75-67.

WEDNESDAY

Loving Hands 73 – Barios 15, Lerio 12, Tabora 12, B Aquino 18, G Aquino 8, Gabaldon 6, Herrera 2.

Cargo Express 72 – Berline 16, Talania 13, Sharry 10, Archangel 8, Lizama 8, Morales 8, Patawaran 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-11, 35-24, 54-50, 73-72.

SEMIS

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team's total to 13. Asia Michaleun, Pinyarat Shankaweiler, and Melanie Santos added one goal apiece for Matansa, while Tan Holding's lone goal

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Final Four is confirmed in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Winter/Summer Bud Light Cup A-division, Tuesday B-League, C-division, and Masters postseason tournaments.

Meanwhile, three of the four Ladies division finalists have also been recently determined. SEDA's respective semifinal pairings are set to take place this coming week at various locations.

SOS Bar & Grill's Mixblood Shooters II, Bammy's Bar & Grill's Sabalu and Celebrity squads, and Sand's Juvy Predators advanced to the A-division Bud Light Cup semifinals after completion of Monday's matchups.

Top-ranked Mixblood II knocked out Bammy's second place Bud Brothers, 9-4, on the road last Monday and now faces Bammy's third-ranked Sabalu, who went into SOS and defeated 101 Proofers, 9-6.

Celebrity, meanwhile, eliminated Naked Fish Boyz, 9-4, at Naked Fish Bar & Grill, and will be paired against Sand's Juvy Predators after the latter survived the Primos, 9-7, at VFW Post 3457.

Tuesday B- League's SOS-Sea Bridge 80 Proofers upset Naked Fish's Na'Gupu Too!, 8-7, at home and moved on to square off with Jonny's Star Maharot who stunned SOS' third-ranked Mixblood Shooters III, 8-4, in a home match; their semis duel will be held at Jonny's

The other side of the Tuesday B bracket includes Poseidon's K-1 Scorpions colliding with host team Joe's Good Guys I. K-1 Scorpions advanced past Naked Fish's Dartaholiks, 8-4, on the road, while Good Guys I bumped out Jonny's Dosukebe Boyz, 8-6, in an away pairing.

These semis matches will be held on Tuesday night.

C-division's DRP, of Bammy's, edged out favored Sparks, 8-7, in a home draw held at Jonny's and will now travel to Oceanside Bar & Grill on Wednesday to meet with the V1 Shooters, which eliminated VFW's fourth place Party Rock, 8-3, on the road last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Oceanside's V2 Shooters also advanced to the semifinals, downing Island Apparel's Oh MG!, 805, at Naked Fish.

They will be put to the test by presumed host Hafa Mas, of Naked Fish, which dropped 19th Hole's Hole In One, 8-4, on the road.

Masters' Maharot Crew pulled the rug from under Es'y Kitchen's division leader Ali'I Kamote, 9-7, at home in VFW and are the new team to beat heading into Wednesday's semifinals pairings.

Maharot Crew will take on the Aces this Wednesday at Bammy's as the latter barely made it past the All-Stars, 9-8, at SOS last Wednesday, while the other matchup features SOS' sixth-ranked Rookies challenging seventh place Companeros at VFW on Wednesday.

The Rookies upset SOS' M-Destroyers, 9-5, at home, while the Companeros surpassed Sabalu Boyz, 9-7, at home.

Ladies' frontrunner Try Luck, of Jonny's Bar & Grill, narrowly made it past VFW's B-52 Shooters, 8-7, on the road and is awaiting to see who they will face in the semis between Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like Dat and Naked Fish's Man Amigas.

Meanwhile, Bammy's Momes'i Mei was gifted a semifinals berth thanks to a forfeit by 19th Hole Bar's Team Reapers and will face off with Joe's Daffodils which knocked off Daarty Deedz, 8-5, at SOS.

A-division's Sabalu hosts MIxblood II at Bammy's on Monday night, while the Juvy Predators welcome Celebrity into Sands.

Also on Monday night, Ladies' Try Luck will be playing the visitor throughout the competition, while the Daffodils welcome Momes'I Mei at Joe's.

BERDAX

From Page 28

added two more runs in the third inning from errors and an RBI base smash by Franco Flores and another run came home in the fourth from Dung Tenorio. He then drove in Ogumoro who reached on a one-out double.

The count then shifted, 13-7, after both squads worked around a run in the fifth inning.

Berdax went on to add two insurance runs in the top of the sixth from a pair of RBI singles by Dave Camacho Jr. and Vaughn Hofschneider and held the Warriors to just two runs in the final stand.

Berdax's Hofschneider batted 4-for-5 with an RBI and three runs. Warriors' Garde went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and a run.

Manelos 12, X-clusive 9

X-clusive managed a 2-1 edge after the first inning off just two hits, which received some help from errors and a sacrifice fly by Fred Sato.

X-clusive's Ralph Yumul then drove home Dennis Ngeskebei for another run in the second inning, after which J.J. Cabrera made it a 4-1 game in the third when he brought in Ben Sablan.

X-clusive then piled on five more runs in the fourth inning off five hits for a promising 9-1 lead.

Jon Guerrero bashed a two-RBI double and his teammates loaded the bases for an RBI walk and a pair of RBI singles by Mike Manas and John Reyes.

X-clusive's bats cooled in the last three innings and it turned out to be Manelos' turn to start knocking the ball around the field.

Manelos cracked four hits for three runs in the fifth inning to pull within a handful, 4-9, heading into the sixth inning.

Manelos then exploded with eight runs in the bottom of the sixth and held strong in the final stand for the win.

At the plate, Manelos pounded eight hits including an RBI base rip by Yubert Alepuyo, a two-run home run by Pete Tomokane, a two-RBI single by Pat Alepuyo, and an RBI base poke by Mendiola. X-clusive only managed a runner at first base in the last inning of regulation

Manelos' Nick Cruz batted 3-for-3 with two runs.

Man Amigos 21, Talu Fahn 10

Man Amigos sprung ahead, 11-5, in the second dinning with 10 runs off 11 hits.

Jess Guerrero bagged an RBI single, Mike Sablan bashed a two-RBI single, Ben Jones ripped a two-RBI double, John Reyes left the yard for two runs, and J.J. Laniyo pulled around on an RBI base hit. Two other runs came in off errors.

Man Amigos then trudged forward, 15-6, in the third inning with four more runs off three hits.

Jerry Ayuyu belted a two-RBI single, Joey Dela Cruz followed with an RBI double, and Jeff Cabrera brought him home with a sacrifice fly.

Man Amigos pressed on and put up four additional runs in the fourth inning off another six hits. James Fleming bagged an RBI single and Reyes connected with a two-RBI base rip.

The team added two more runs in the fifth off errors and a sacrifice fly by Guerrero and held heir opponents to just four runs in the final stand. Talu Fahn's Floyd Dela Cruz jacked a three-run homer, but his team was way too far behind.

Man Amigos' Reyes swung 3-for-4 for four RBIs and another run.

PACQUIAO

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Marquez last November.

"It (an impressive victory) is really important because, of course, everybody knows my last fight was very close," said Pacquiao, who slowly circled the ring to answer questions in Filipino, English and Spanish.

"With God's grace and strength I will win the fight (against Timothy Bradley on June 9)," said Pacquiao, who refused to predict a knockout. "It's God's will (if it comes)."

Roach, however, believes a knockout is looming when Pacquiao defends his WBO welterweight crown against Bradley.

"Somewhere along the way the knockout will come," said Roach, who belittled Bradley's prediction of a knockout victory.

"He's never been a puncher and he'll never be one," Roach said. "Punchers are born not made."

"He (Bradley) is so slow and Manny is so fast, it's going to be like night and day," added Roach.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum also revealed that ticket sales for the bout are "really rolling" and are "going through the roof."

The 80-year-old Arum, already in boxing's Hall of Fame, said out of 16,000 tickets only 1,500 are left.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for June 2-3, 2012
IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament
Saturday, June 2: Games start at 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 3: Games start at 6:00 P.M.
NMBA
NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION
16th Korean Community 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Sunday, June 3: 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Gillette
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM
There are no scheduled games.
SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

Thunder wallops Spurs 82, pulls within 2-1

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Marathon Man Isner loses 18-16 in 5th at French

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Semis seats at stake in women's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The last two semis berths in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Spring League will be contested today at the start of the playoff round of the 11 aside competition at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United FC and Tan Holdings collide in the first game at 8:30am, while Independents FC takes on Matansa in the second playoff match at 10:30am with the winners joining early semifinalists Shirley's FC and Paire FC.

Shirley's and Paire claimed the automatic semis tickets in the six-team field after finishing in the Top 2 in the double-round robin season. Shirley's took the No. 1 spot with its 9-1-0 win-draw-loss card and 57 goals in 10 games, while Paire came in at second with its 8-1-1 record and 28 goals.

Shirley's got its ninth win in the elimination last Saturday against Independents, 2-0. Jhaneeka Atalig and Jeraldine Castillo scored one goal each in Shirley's shutout win of IFC with the former finding the back of the net in the 25th minute and the latter 30 minutes later.

Independents fell to a 3-1-5 slate and was held to 10 goals, completing the regular season at fourth place.

Paire sealed the No. 2 spot in the standings after a 5-0 victory over MP United last Sunday. Kelsey Mueller and Juliana Muna canned two goals apiece, while Patty Coleman chipped in one, bringing Paire's total in 10 games to 28.

MP United was held to 16 goals after failing to score in its last game and landed in third place with its 5-1-4 record.

Matansa edged Tan Holdings in the rankings, with the former saving fifth place and the latter ending at sixth and last. Matansa clobbered Tan Holdings last Saturday, 10-1, to finish the regular season with a 1-1-8 record. Tan Holdings was winless, had only one draw, and recorded eight losses.

Manami Tadokoro scored seven goals in Matansa's last regular season game to up the

See SEMIS on Page 27

An Independents FC player tries to attack the defense of MP United goalie Rachel Masga during their game in the regular season of the NMIFA women's league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Berdax holds off Warriors in Budweiser softball, 15-9

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Berdax's leadoff man Vaughn Hofschneider batted 4 for 5 with a RBI and three runs in Wednesday's CSA-2nd Budweiser Softball League men's pairing against the Warriors held on Capitol Hill Field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Berdax outlasted the Warriors, 15-9, as the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League men's division continued Wednesday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The victory improved Berdax's win-loss record to 6-3, while the Warriors fell to a slate of four wins with a handful of losses.

Also on Wednesday, Manelos (6-3) pulled out an 8-run rally in the last inning to overcome X-clusive (4-6), 12-9, for a share of the fourth spot with Berdax, while second-ranked the Man Amigos (8-1) routed Talu Fahn (2-9), 21-10.

Natibu (9-1) still leads the field by a half game with Gagu Eyez (7-2), Saipal (5-5), Your Balls (5-3), Team Elias (4-4), Team Familia (4-6), G-Ballers (3-6), 6-Pack (2-5), and Managaha (0-9) making up the rest of the men's division.

In addition, the women's division standings show Check It Out (5-1) still in front; just one game ahead of defending champions Sakudi (5-2) with 670 Babes (3-3), Enamo Meta (2-5) and the Rookies (1-5) filling out the rest of the order.

Berdax 15, Warriors 9

The Warriors worked out an early 6-5 edge in the first inning off seven hits, including a trio of RBI singles by Chris Pangelinan, Ton Pangelinan, and Marley Techur, an RBI double by Sidney Kani, and a two-RBI double from Josh Garde.

Berdax managed its runs from a two-RBI base rip by Ben Taisacan and a pair of RBI singles by Jack Diaz and Shine Tenorio earlier in the frame.

Berdax then went ahead, 9-6, in the second inning with seven hits, including an RBI double by Jesse Tenorio, a two-RBI single by Taisacan, and an RBI base knock from Aling Ogumoro.

The Warriors' offense came to a screeching halt after the initial uprising, while Berdax

See BERDAX on Page 27

Loving Hands hold off Cargo Express, 73-72

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Loving Hands Daycare buried four pressure-packed charities from the 15-foot line in the final seconds to survive Cargo Express, 73-72, in Wednesday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In other results, R-Rebels was leading Star Water, 57-39, with 7:01 left in the third quarter of Wednesday's late pairing before rain caused for suspension of the game, while on Thursday, Saipan Hardware defeated Hip-Hop Thunder, 75-67, before the late match was also called off early due to bad weather. Ashley was leading Mobil, 21-15, in the second game with 7:21 left in the second quarter before the rainout.

The season continues to-

See LOVING on Page 27

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Loving Hands Daycare's Roger Herrera drives to the hoop against Cargo Express' Larry Sharry in Wednesday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup held on Garapan court.

Pacquiao feels like he's 25 again

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HOLLYWOOD—The glow on his face, the spring in his legs, and the sting of his punches are back—tell-tale signs that Manny Pacquiao is feeling young once again.

"I'm still thinking I'm 25, 26 years old," declared a smiling Pacquiao, who's actually 33, before a throng of media at the Wild Card Gym here Wednesday afternoon (Thursday in Manila) to watch him work out with trainer Freddie Roach.

Beneath Pacquiao's relax appearance, however, is a fighter determined to woo back doubters unimpressed with his close majority decision win over Juan Manuel

See PACQUAIO on Page 27